

# Continental Marine

A photograph of a military helicopter, likely a UH-60 Black Hawk, landing in a desert environment. The helicopter is the central focus, with its rotors blurred from motion. In the foreground, two soldiers in camouflage gear are crouching, looking towards the helicopter. The background shows a vast, arid landscape with mountains in the distance under a clear sky.

Winter 2002  
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*TIGERCOMP VII*

*Cooperative Key*

*Exercise Cooperative  
Adventure Exchange*

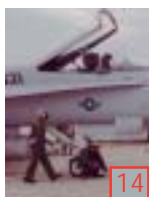
## Features



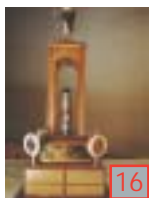
**Texas-** Marines from 1/23 return home after nine-month deployment to Cuba.



**N.C.** – MarFor UNITAS 43-02 returns from its South American deployment.



**N.C.** – Reserve Marines of VMFA-321 stay busy and ready alongside their active-duty counterpart.



**Ky.** – Marine Corps tank battalions battle to see who is the best at Tiger Comp '02.



**France-** 4th Force Recon Bn. travels across the Atlantic to take part in the multi-national Exercise Cooperative Key.



**Ukraine** – 4th Medical Bn. takes part in a mass casualty drill during Exercise Cooperative Adventure Exchange.



**Miss.** – New Orleans Marines camp out with the Cub Scouts for the 7th year in a row.



**Calif.** – HMLA-775 Super Cobra helicopters conduct close air support training with 3rd ANGLICO at the Mountain Warfare Training Center.



**HQMC** – Public-Private Ventures provides new housing complexes for Marines and their families.

## On the Covers



**Front: Calif.** – A CH-46 from HMM-764 lands in the Mojave Desert at Twenty-Nine Palms, Calif. Photo by Cpl. Matthew Apprendi



**Back: Calif.** – F-18 Hornets from 3rd ANGLICO provide support at the Mountain Warfare Training Center. Photo by Capt. Jeff Pool

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### Marine Forces Reserve

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**Editor's note:** We need your help to tell the Marine Corps story! Send us any photos you may have from your Annual Training, along with background information on your AT and unit to [Webmaster@mfr.usmc.mil](mailto:Webmaster@mfr.usmc.mil). Get published in the Continental Marine. For more information, call (504) 678-0703.

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# MARFORRES

COMMAND PAGE

**Lt. Gen. Dennis M. McCarthy, Commander, Marine Forces Reserve**

## Still ready, willing and able

As the global war on terrorism stretches into another year and some reserves are embarking on a second year on active duty there are some who may be concerned that the use of the reserves in this long and unconventional conflict will have negative effects on recruiting, retention and employer relations. I'm not one of those.

Young men and women join the Marine Corps Reserve for one reason – they want to be a part of world's premier fighting force. They are most happy when they get to be Marines. Our recruiting and retention rates go up – not down – when deployment opportunities increase.

Marines have been called to active duty to augment and reinforce the active component for a variety of missions, all of them valid operational requirements. From the beginning the Commandant set the tone with an emphatic reminder that our reserve force is a combat force and we were not going to activate reserves for "other" missions.

Throughout the current partial mobilization we have been working hand in hand with employers with the assistance of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Instead of problems, we find numerous patriotic employers who are going beyond the legal requirements to minimize the impact of activation on Marines and their families. We thank them for their generous support.

The families of our activated Marines are lending their support as

well and we are making an extra effort to make sure their needs are met while the Marines are deployed. I received a letter a few weeks ago from one of those family members. I asked its author – Mrs. Kim Spencer, the wife of Sgt. Derryl Spencer of Company F, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines – for permission to quote from it. She wrote:

*I will be the first one to admit that this activation hasn't been easy.... We like many other Marine families have spent the majority of our first year of marriage apart, but this has allowed me to see a side of my husband that I otherwise would not have seen. I find it ironic that some of the very reasons that I fell in love with my Marine are the same reasons that we are apart right now. He is a man of strong conviction, of honor, of loyalty and of courage.... I am very proud of my Marine and thankful for the legacy he will lead and the value of loyalty and service to one's country he will instill in our children.*

Thanks, Kim, for your wonderful statement of support. It puts into words how so many of our family members feel. Those family members are a part of our warfighting effort, because they enable the Marines and Sailors of our Force to carry on with the job at hand.

Thanks, also, to our Key Volunteer Coordinators and Key Volunteers who make up the backbone of our Family Readiness Program. Your efforts to keep family members informed and supported are essential to our readiness and are very much appreciated.



## From the Commander:

### MarForRes loses 4 pilots in war on terror

*Jan. 28, 2003*



We lost four Marines last week. Lt. Col. Robert J. Theilman, 47, of Suffolk, N.Y., the commanding officer of HMLA-775, Maj. John M. Walsh, 36, of Oakland, Mich., Maj. Steven G. Palombo, 36, of Sterling

Heights, Mich. and Capt. David C. Cross, 34, of Centre, Pa., lost their lives when their Cobra helicopters collided in mid-air over Zapata, Texas. They were flying in support of the U.S. Border Patrol and Joint Task Force 6. Some have referred to their mission as a “counter narcotics” effort. I believe they were engaged in nothing less than the defense of our borders. In the two nights

before their crash, the Marines of HMLA-775 supported the seizure of 3,100 pounds of marijuana and the apprehension of seven people crossing the border illegally. Those 3,100 pounds could have been any substance—drugs, explosives, or other hazardous materials. Those seven people could have been trying to enter the United States for any number of reasons—not just economic advantage. Lt. Col. Theilman’s Marines were on watch to prevent anyone and anything harmful to the United States from entering our soil. They were warfighters in the Global War Against Terrorism. We honor their service and will continue to be inspired by their sacrifice.

*Editor’s Note: A tribute to the Marines will be included in the next edition of the Continental Marine.*

## 4th MAW, 4th FSSG and II MACE swap commanders

**NEW ORLEANS** – In a series of moves that would have made any sports agent proud, three Marine Reserve generals executed an “exchange” of commands.

Brig. Gen. John W. Bergman moved over from his position as commanding general of the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing to take the top post at 4th Force Service Support Group — literally a short walk down the hall in the MarForRes Headquarters building in New Orleans. He replaced Brig. Gen. Cornell A. Wilson Jr. who took command of II Marine Expedition-

ary Force Augmentation Command Element in Camp Lejeune. The former II MACE commanding general, Brig. Gen. Harold J. Fruchtnicht, assumed command of the 4th MAW.



Brig. Gen. John W. Bergman, Commanding General, 4th Force Service Support Group



Brig. Gen. Cornell A. Wilson, Commanding General, II MEF Augmentation Command Element



Brig. Gen. Harold J. Fruchtnicht, Commanding General, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing

### Marine Corps legends headline MFR Ball

Cpl. Lana Waters

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs

**NEW ORLEANS** — Five Medal of Honor recipients, three Marine Corps Commandants, veterans of every conflict since World War II, Marines of every rank decked out in their dress uniforms, and hundreds of guests looking resplendent in their evening wear combined to make the celebration of the 227<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Marine Corps a night to remember.

More than 2,000 Marines and guests gathered for the annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball, here, Nov. 1. Gen. James L. Jones and Sgt. Maj. Alford A. McMichael, commandant and sergeant major of the Marine Corps, were the guests of honor. Lt. Gen. Dennis McCarthy and Sgt. Maj. Robin Dixon, commander and sergeant major of Marine Forces Reserve, served as hosts.

Attendees were treated to a rousing performance by the Marine Forces Reserve Band as an honor guard of Marines, representing every rank from corporal to colonel, lined up for the ceremony.

During his speech, Jones recognized all of the veterans of past wars who were in attendance, including five Medal

of Honor recipients.

“The gift of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has been the gift of the greatest generation. I am passionate about that, and I believe that we owe this generation a debt of thanks that could never be repaid. The United States of America would not be the way it is today without those people and their families who made the sacrifice while they were winning our nations wars.”

Jones told the assembly that his favorite Marine Corps birthday balls were the ones in which everyone, from junior enlisted Marines to officers, come together for one ceremony to celebrate with their families and friends.

“We have one Corps, we have one family, we are United States Marines. Semper Fi and happy birthday.”

During the cake-cutting, special guests retired Generals Robert Barrow and Carl Mundy, both former Commandants, and retired Gen. Joseph Hoar were recognized. Retired Lt. Col. William Waller Young was the oldest Marine present and PFC Nicole Draughn, who recently graduated from recruit training, was the youngest.

Marines weren't shy about meeting the legends and heroes of the Corps. After the ceremony Marines waited

in line to get their picture taken with the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

“This is the best ball I've ever been to,” said Staff Sgt. Timothy Odon, intelligence operations chief, MarForRes. “The Commandant's speech was very motivating.”

“I really liked the ceremony,” said Lance Cpl. Brock Knight, S-4, MarForRes.

Knight said it was touching to see all the Commandants and Medal of Honor recipients there. “This is what it all comes down to. This is why I joined.”



Cpl. Mikel Kibel

Guests of honor include (L to R): Gen. James L. Jones, Lt. Gen. Dennis M. McCarthy, Gen. Robert Barrow, Gen. Carl Mundy, Gen. Joseph Hoar, Sgt. Maj. Alford McMichael, Sgt. Maj. Robin Dixon.



# MARFORRES

News Line

## MCCS One Source...Anytime, anyplace, anywhere Marine Corps initiates “virtual” family service center

Maj. C. C. Dysart

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**NEW ORLEANS** – Have you ever needed an answer and didn’t know where to turn? Like most of us, your response is probably: Yes! Everyday! All the time! Relax, more help is here.

Marines and their families now have a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week source for information and assistance—regardless of where they are. MCCS One Source, accessed via toll-free number or online, is designed to help Marines and their families manage the competing demands of mission and home. It works for everyone—married, single, children, parents, even pets—with simple questions or complex concerns.

The service became available for Marines on Inspector-Instructor and Recruiting duty and reserves, including SMCR, IMA and activated IRR members, starting Dec. 1.



The rest of the Marine Corps will have access on Feb. 1, 2003.

MCCS One Source is run by Ceridian Corp., a leader in providing employee

assistance services for nearly three decades. Ceridian has other military clients, including the Navy, Army and Air Force Recruiting commands.

While available to everyone, the program is especially helpful for remote families that don’t have access to installation services. Not surprisingly, Marine Forces Reserve first introduced the idea of a “virtual” family service center for the Marine Corps.

MCCS One Source is designed to supplement the services we traditionally offer to families aboard bases already, said Mary Craig, information and referral program specialist for Headquarters Marine Corps. Those who live on or near installations but do not have the time to go into the base centers can access services when it is convenient.

One of the great features of the program is the “warm handoff.” The counselor who answers your call identifies your need and, when needed, puts you in touch with the right person.

“They get the professional on the phone for you and

there’s a dialogue between the three parties before the handoff,” said Mike Royer, program manager for family readiness and team building at MarForRes. “That’s a good way to do business.”

*It's not just for families in crisis—  
it's for everyday challenges.*

Mike Royer

Online users can create their own personal account and receive regular newsletters on topics of interest.

“It’s not just for families in crisis—it’s for everyday challenges,” said Royer. For example, users can get information on everything from time management and caring for elderly family members, to buying a car and strengthening relationships, to customized relocation packages and locating an auto repair shop. They can even help you find a pet sitter.

All products, both standard and customized, are pre-paid by the Marine Corps.

The confidentiality of the program might encourage more people to use the service.

“It removes some of the stigma of going to the family service center,” said Royer, referring to the unfortunate assumption of some that only people who have problems go to the FSC.

Col. Walt Ellingson, director of Marine Corps Community Services for MarForRes, said he was skeptical at first about what Ceridian could deliver but they won him over.

“This will be a tremendous boon for us,” said Ellingson.



### MCCS One Source Access

**Toll-free CONUS: 800-433-6868**

**OCONUS Universal Free Phone: 800-237-42374  
(dial all digits)**

**OCONUS Collect 484-530-5908**

**TTY/TDD: 800-346-9188**

**En espanol: 888-732-9020**

**[www.mccsonesource.com](http://www.mccsonesource.com)**

**User ID: marines**

**Password: semper fi**

# MARFORRES

News Line

## New cammie issue to Reserves is underway

Cpl. Matthew J. Appendi

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office



**NEW ORLEANS** — A few pushes of computer keys and a couple clicks of the mouse is all that's required for reserve Marines to receive the new digital combat utility uniforms.

The ability to issue the new digital combat utility uniform online hit the Internet in October.

The online process is open for reserve units to order the new utilities for their drilling enlisted reserve Marines and sailors.

Within a year, drilling enlisted reserve Marines and sailors will be issued one set each of the woodland and desert utilities. Each set includes: two covers, one pair of boots, a pair of trousers and a blouse.

"We wanted to make it easy for the supply chiefs to order the MCCUU's," said Gunnery Sgt. Tina M. Torres, staff noncommissioned officer in charge, supply chain operations, Marine Forces Reserve, "all they have to do is access the Internet site and place their order."

To access the site the unit or units have to be the next in line to order the MCCUU's. Because of the speed of production, MarForRes can't issue everything at once, so, each month new units are selected to receive the utilities.

"The month before a unit is ready to receive their new utilities, we'll give the supply chief a call and let them know what their username and password is to access the site," said Torres.

From there, the supply chief enters in the Marine or Navy personnel's uniform size information. The site tallies all the information together - and within 10 days of the order the utilities will be on the doorstep — name taped and all.

"It's a real easy process," said Gunnery Sgt. Joe Lewis, supply chief, inspector-instructor staff, Company K, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines, hailing from Memphis, the first unit to use the new site, "I'll have my 182 personnel entered in the system within a day."

The goal of the Marine Forces Reserve's Logistics section is to have the more than 30,000 active drilling reserves outfitted with two sets of the woodland and two sets of the desert in two years then their mission will be complete. A complete issue of the new combat utilities is two sets of woodland with two covers, two sets of desert with two covers and two pairs of boots.



## Important information for Reserves about Tricare

An updated Tricare handbook highlighting the three Tricare options is now available for Marines. Many health care programs and benefits have been added including Tricare for Life, travel reimbursement, chiropractic care, dental program and more.

An electronic version on the handbook can be viewed or downloaded at [www.tricare.osd.mil/tricarehandbook](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tricarehandbook). In

addition, handbooks can be ordered by the units at [www.tricare.osd.mil/smart](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/smart).

Marines and their families are encouraged to read the handbook to better understand their benefits. For questions or assistance, Marines should contact their local Tricare Service Center Representative.

CM

### N.Y. Marines return home after year-long deployment

Sgt. John Neal

1st Marine Corps District

**GARDEN CITY, N.Y.** — Reserve Marines with 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment returned home to Garden City, N.Y., following almost a year of activation and deployment to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The Marines in Garden City are with Headquarters and Service Company and Weapons Company. Co. E, in Harrisburg, Pa; Co. F, in Albany, N.Y.; and Co. G, in Dover, N.J. also returned home and deactivated earlier this month. The battalion was activated Jan. 14, 2002.

While at Camp Lejeune, the battalion provided operational relief for the 2nd Marine Division. Marines were able to train extensively as a battalion in numerous exercises, while companies deployed to the Balkans to participate in operations there. They also rotated with active duty units as the air contingency battalion, a standby force ready to react to crises anywhere in the United States.

“The 25th Marines and the 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines have been a significant asset to the 2nd Marine Division,” said Brig. Gen. Mastin M. Robeson, assistant commander for the 2nd MarDiv.

“Two months into their activation, there was zero difference between them and one of the other infantry battalions here.”

Training for the reserves during the activation period covered a wide spectrum of real-world scenarios in urban and mountain warfare and non-lethal tactics. The activation period also allowed Marines to catch up on critical skills such as marksmanship, NBC defense and combat water survival. More elaborate training evolutions took the Marines from Camp Lejeune to as far away as California for mountain warfare training in Bridgeport and an opportunity to practice combat against the Army at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin.

“The urban training was probably the best part,” said Lance Cpl. Kit Cheung, 19. Cheung is an infantryman with 2/25, and Queens, N.Y. native. As part of their urban environment warfare training, Marines used paint-ball rounds to simulate

live fire. “It was the closest thing we could get to actual combat. Plus, any urban training is cool.”

Like Cheung, many of the Marines who were activated and participated in the training agreed the mountain warfare school was the most challenging part of their schedule.

“It was rough,” said Sgt. Reginaldo Reyes, 24, who spent five years active duty before joining the reserves two years ago. During his military career he has deployed with two Marine Expeditionary Units.

“Workups were tough because they were fast-paced, but that was nothing like this,” he said comparing deployment preparation to training in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. “The air was thin, there was a lot of footwork, and we had to carry a lot of weight ... even our strongest guy was breathing hard.”

The return to Garden City for H&S and Weapons Companies was spread over a week. With equipment return and administrative processing underway, the return home culminated with a visit by Lt. Gen. Dennis McCarthy, Commander, Marine Forces Reserve.

“I am extremely proud and pleased with your performance,” McCarthy told the Marines. “You have prepared yourselves individually and as a unit in ways that couldn’t be done without a year of active duty service. Hardly any combat force can be considered more capable than 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines.”

Reyes agreed and added that the activation was noteworthy to the legacy of the Marine Reserve.

“Although we didn’t go to Afghanistan or Iraq or anyplace like that, at least we stood up and did something,” he said. “At least we stood up and answered the call.”

Many of the Marines will return to their civilian jobs shortly. Others will return to school in January to pick up their lives where they had left off. But they are all constantly aware that the normalcy may be only temporary. As part of President George W. Bush’s partial mobilization plan, the battalion, may be reactivated, if needed. The general consensus among the Marines at 2/25 is they are ready.



Children of 2/25 Marines made a sign to welcome their parents home.

Sgt. John Neal



# MARFORRES

News Line

## 1/23 says goodbye to Gitmo and hello to Texas

Cpl. Jeff Hawk

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

**AUSTIN, Texas** – Texas Marines deployed to Cuba received an early Christmas present: a one-way ticket home. One hundred and fifteen Marines and Navy corpsmen from Houston-based 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines arrived home after a nine-month stint at U.S. Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The Marines deployed to Cuba last March to augment and replace the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade's Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Teams which were needed elsewhere as part of the Global War on Terrorism. Platoons from Alpha Co. in Houston, and Weapons Co. in Austin, comprised the deployed unit.

The Marines were tasked with "guarding the fenceline" and providing security for the base and for the 2,500 joint task force personnel guarding captured Taliban and Al Qaeda fighters.

Arriving home on the night of his birthday, a beaming 26-year-old Cpl. Drew Britcher expressed the hardship of being away from home and the pride in accomplishing the mission. "I'm glad I went. I'm really glad to be back," said Britcher, a resident of Pflugerville,



Cpl. Jeff Hawk

**Sgt. Timothy Hudman holds his two-month-old son Matthew after arriving home from Cuba.**

Texas. "Everyone we talked to said we did a great job," he added.

"The Marines performed very professionally," agreed Capt. Michael Fedor, platoon commander for 2nd Plt., Bravo Detachment.

Lance Cpl. Mateo Gallardo, a 26-year-old machinegunner from San Antonio, said the deployment compelled him to go back on active duty. "I was considering it before, but this (deployment) made the decision for me." Still, he said, it was hard leaving his wife and four daughters. "The mission itself wasn't too bad, but it was tough being away from family."

When not answering questions for the local TV new crew, Sgt. Timothy Hudman, 30, from Austin, was fawning over his new two-month-old son, born during the deployment.

For wives, technology helped ease the separation and the burden of caring for the family alone. Some caught a glimpse of their spouses on TV news channels. Said Michele Russell, wife of Sgt. Cort Russell: "We burned up the email and the instant messaging."



Cpl. Jeff Hawk

**Lance Cpl. Mateo Gallardo gets smothered by his daughters who figured he owed them a lot of hugs after the separation.**

CM

## UNITAS 43-02: A historic South American deployment

Staff Sgt. Sam Kille

MARFOR Unitas Public Affairs Office

**CAMPLEJEUNE, N.C.** – There were those who doubted whether or not it could be done. After all, reserves are merely weekend warriors. Right?

Wrong. With stops in 11 Latin American countries and six intense, bilateral exercises under their belts, the nearly 300 reserve Marines who took part in the amphibious phase of Unitas 43-02 shattered myths and proved their value as an integral part of the Corps' total force principle, before returning here Dec. 3.

"Unitas was a highly successful deployment in which our Marines and Sailors performed magnificently," said Lt. Col. Anthony Hattey, the commanding officer of Marine Forces Unitas. "These Marines are coming back from this deployment with some special skills that drilling reserves don't normally acquire."

Latin for unity, Unitas is an annual, multinational series of training exercises with the maritime forces of several Latin American nations. Since 1981, U.S. Marines have participated in Unitas, helping to improve international relations in the southern hemisphere while promoting democracy and hemispheric defense. This year marked the first use of reserves, who are providing operational tempo relief to II Marine Expeditionary Force, based in Camp Lejeune.

According to Hattey, who left behind his position as a police officer in San Jose, Calif., to command the unit, the use of reserves in this capacity has bolstered the Corps' capabilities for future missions.

"We have developed a unique manner by which the Marine Reserve can contribute to the ongoing missions of the active duty component, and we have done it well," Hattey said. "Our Marines will return to their units with years' worth of experience-as well as sea stories-that will assist in retention and 'volunteerism' for future operational relief exercises."

The active duty Marines of II MEF agree.

"They stepped up to the plate and hit a home run for us," said Col. David Mauldin, Chief of Staff, II MEF. "With little time to prepare, they stood up and took a real world mission off our hands-providing valuable operational relief for our active duty Marines."

The four-month deployment began July 23 when Marine Forces Unitas loaded busses here, bound for Morehead City, N.C., to embark aboard the USS Portland (LSD-37), a dock landing ship based at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Va.

Once onboard, the Marines conducted pre-deployment training in Onslow Bay, N.C., prior to steaming to Little Creek to load supplies for the cruise. They departed Little Creek, Aug. 5—ready, willing and able to forge new ground.

"Every new country brought us a new opportunity," said Sgt. Russ Gordon, a reconnaissance team leader, who left behind a job as the manager of a fishery in Yakutat, Alaska, for the float. "Being reserves, we usually train at the same places, doing the same old things. Down there, every beach meant a different reef, a different obstacle. Plus, there is only so

much training you can do during a weekend drill. There, we were able to work every asset and learned something new everyday-whether we realized it or not."

Through the course of their travels, MARFOR Unitas trained in every environment imaginable—from white, sandy beaches in the Caribbean, to steamy jungles in the Amazonian Basin; from barren deserts along the Pacific Coast, to the snow-capped mountains of the Andes. Their experiences were highly educational.

"The deployment provided us excellent training and a wealth of knowledge," said Lance Cpl. Scott Kasules, a machine gunner, and a special education teacher assistant from Elgin, Ill. "The more





# MARFORRES

Focus on the Force

we did, the better we got. The training was the closest one could get to combat without actually being in combat-in today's world, that is more important than ever."

A highlight for many of the Marines was the exchange of ideas and tactics with the host nation military forces, which included the Marines of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Argentina and Brazil.

"Exercises like this (with foreign nations) not only give us a better understanding of how others operate in combat, but helps to destroy stereotypes that both nations have," said Lance Cpl. Jason Juarez, infantryman, and a sophomore at the University of Texas in San Antonio. "Through this, we can relate to each other much better."

Many of the host nation Marines agreed. One such Marine was Cadet Jorge Raos, from Medellin, Colombia. During the Colombian Bilateral, Raos, and fellow future Marine officers from the Colombian Naval Academy, received training on the employment of the M-240G machinegun. Raos was genuinely enthused about the training he received.

"This was very good training for the



Colombian Marines—we really needed to learn these techniques," Raos said. "I hope we get to participate in Unitas every year with the U.S. Marines—they are the best in the world."

Training aside, the deployment also exposed the Marines and Sailors to a world few Americans get to see. In the Dominican Republic, they stood on the site where Christopher Columbus first set foot in the New World. In Colombia, many helped renovate a school in an impoverished village. In Ecuador, they bought Incan influenced souvenirs. In Peru, they broke bread with locals, and were entertained by traditional dancers. In Chile, a number took advantage of various tours. The Marines even had the opportunity to mix culture and tradition when they celebrated the Corps' 227th birthday in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

"This deployment has been a real eye-opener," said Lance Cpl. Rory Thornton, a

machine gunner from Nahant, Mass. "I was able to see some of the most beautiful places in the world. I thought it might be a little strange being an American there, but the people are very genuine-absolutely friendly."

The Marines and Sailors also gained a greater appreciation for life in the United States.

"When you see how little these people have, you realize how lucky we are to live in a wealthy nation," said Maj. Rod Long, commanding officer of the unit's Ground Combat Element, and a corporate recruiter in Houston, Texas. "Even an MRE (meal ready to eat) looks different after seeing how little they have—it's a lot harder to complain about the little things now."

With the deployment now behind them, the reserve Marines will return home to the daily grind of their civilian lives—just in time for the holidays. And though they will resume the lives they put on hold to deploy with Marine Forces Unitas, they will be even more prepared to answer the call the next time they are needed. Weekend warriors they are not.



**Opposite page: Lance Cpl. Floyd Johns, 3rd Plt., MARFOR Unitas provides security during a patrol in Colombia. Top: Peruvian BMRs and MARFOR Unitas AAVs make their way through the Peruvian desert. Bottom: Lance Cpl. Manuel Cruz, a mortarman from San Antonio, Texas, provides guidance on the 60 mm mortar to a Peruvian Marine. Photos by Staff Sgt. Sam Kille**

CM



# New England Team Marine runs for good cause

Sgt. Arthur DesLauriers

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs

**NEW HAVEN, Conn.**—As the morning sun was climbing into the sky above the campus of Yale University, here, Oct. 20, members of the Marine Corps Site Support Element (MCSSE) of the Westover Reserve Base in Chicopee, Mass., mingled with the crowd before the start of the “You Can!” KC101 5K Run for Breast Cancer Awareness.

“Having a grandmother who is a 30-year survivor of breast cancer is an inspiration to run”, said Sgt. Jeremy Cotnoir of Gardiner, Maine, a Tactical Data System Equipment repairman with Marine Air Support Squadron 6.

“We Marines are not just here for a run, but are here to support this worthy cause. We have a duty and obligation to support our community,” said Sgt. Maj. Harris, MCSSE sergeant major, who also has a breast cancer survivor in his family. “This disease knows no boundaries, it not only attacks the individual but the whole family suffers.”

Marines providing the color guard

and an interesting military presence on this usually non-military site was motivating for many of the race participants. One runner told the Marines, “You guys motivate me to complete the race. Your chants and teamwork made me stick it out.” Many cheers and claps could be heard as the Marines crossed the finish line together.

Additionally, on Sept. 29, Team Marine took 1st Place in the military team event at the 1st Marine Corps Boston 10K Road Race. The team included 1st Lt. Ryan Walker, Sgt. Adam Ayriss, Cotnoir who placed 1st for Team Marine and 9th overall in the race, Sgt. Carlton Hill and Cpl. Quinnon Duke. Proceeds from the race benefited The Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation, which established scholarships for children who lost a parent in the September 11th terrorist attack on the Pentagon.

“I like to run and it is an important part of the esprit de corps that every



Amy Hill

**Team Marine participants posing after running to their victory in the 1st Boston/Marine Corps 10K road race. 1st Lt. Ryan Walker, Sgt. Carlton Hill, Sgt. Adam Ayriss, Sgt. Jeremy Cotnoir and Cpl. Quinnon Duke.**

Marine feels,” said Hill, who also plans to run in the 2002 Marine Corps Marathon. Expect to see Team Marine in future New England races.



## VMGR-234 “Rangers” fly out for action with 11th MEU

1st Lt. Carrie C. Batson

11th MEU Public Affairs

**U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND AREA OF OPERATIONS** — In early January, 2002, Steven J. McCullough, an airplane systems instructor for American Eagle airlines, was teaching a class when he was interrupted by an important telephone call. It was a U.S. Marine on the other end of the line, looking for a reserve Marine by the name of Staff Sgt. Steven McCullough.

The Marine continued to talk, and within a matter of minutes, Steven McCullough learned the news.

“When I got off the phone, I said, ‘I need someone to take over the class because I need to go, NOW!’ ”

McCullough, a reserve flight engi-

neer for KC-130J cargo airplanes, had just received word he was being activated. The Marine Corps needed him and his squadron, the VMGR-234 “Rangers,” based out of Ft. Worth, Texas, to help fight the War on Terrorism. McCullough and 70 other Marines from the squadron’s Detachment A had five days before reporting to active duty. A month later, some would be deployed to Afghanistan in support of combat missions against Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters.

Within a matter of months, all 70 Marines would find themselves deployed with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) to the U.S. Central Command region of operations in support of the same

cause— Operation Enduring Freedom. Although the activation was involuntary, the Marines from Det. A weren’t complaining.

“Nobody wants to be home when everything is happening over here. If something is going on, we want to be a part of it,” McCullough said.

Talk to almost anyone, and you’ll get the same response. When it comes to serving their country, it’s hard to find a Marine who wouldn’t volunteer for a chance to forward deploy.

“Two-thirty-four gave me the great opportunity to jump onboard and be involved in what’s happening over here,” explained Sgt. Bryan T. Purcell, navigator, VMGR-234, 11th MEU (SOC), and a flight instructor at a

private flying school in San Diego.

There can be no dispute that maintaining a forward presence in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility plays an important role in the global war against terrorism in the region. And for these reserve Marines, the reason behind the deployment hits close to home. Most, if not all, VMGR-234 Marines have full-time jobs within the aviation community—an industry severely affected by the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

“My (civilian co-workers) are proud to know I am over here. I get e-mails all the time from them. I’ve been taking pictures of the (American) Eagle flag, so they can see part of their team taking part in it,” explained McCullough.

In September 2001, VMGR-234 became the first reserve squadron in the Marine Corps to win the Commandant’s Aviation Trophy for excellence in performance of mission accomplishment. In September 2002, the “Rangers” were awarded the Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron of the Year award for, once again, superior performance in their duties. The squadron Marines attribute this success to a team mentality and the fact they are from the reserves.

“The skills we have learned in our civilian jobs... You can incorporate that into that military job,” McCullough states.

In fact, for many it is a conscious action.

Major Ronald I. Johnson, a KC-130J pilot who flies with Delta Airlines, agrees. “We ask ourselves, ‘How can I bring the skills I’ve learned (in my civilian job) into helping the squadron?’”

Earlier this year, Johnson was awarded the Army Air Medal for missions he flew in Northern Afghanistan in support of the Army’s Operation Anaconda, hauling fuel to forward operating for Marine Corps CH-53 helicopters.

The wealth of experience found in Det. A most of the

Marines have nine to 12 years active-duty experience in addition to knowledge gained in the civilian sector of aviation, does not go unnoticed among the few active duty personnel assigned to the reserve squadron. For these active-duty Marines, they witness how some skills learned in the civilian sector help to enhance unit performance.

“I’ve been active duty my whole time in the Marine Corps,” said Sgt. Donald M. Morris, a crew chief and one of the few active duty personnel assigned to the reserve squadron. “When I got there, they showed me a different side of things. I mean, if it’s working for the civilian airlines, than something has got to be right.”

For example, commercial co-pilots call out the plane’s airspeed as it accelerates down the runway before take off. This allows the flying pilot to cross check the instruments on his side of the cockpit to see if everything matches up before he is committed to flying. Marines from Det. A, have adopted this technique, bringing an additional safety measure to the squadron.

Not only are these Marines from Det. A proud to be make a positive contribution to the unit, they are also proud to be serving their country and the 11th MEU (SOC).

“We’ve got a great dynamic. I get to go to different places and do a job I was trained for. I like the people I work with. We have a real world mission,” said Staff Sgt. Joseph M. Sagastume, a flight mechanic who works for American Airlines as an engine shop supervisor.

“I do the reserves for a reason... I’m in it for the sheer satisfaction of serving my country... And I think it’s essential that everybody know the reserves are up and capable of supporting any active-duty component. And willing.”

CM



1stLt. Carrie C. Batson

A KC-130J from VMGR-234, Ft. Worth, Texas, sits on the tarmac as Marines from the 11th MEU (SOC) offload gear during a recent exercise in the U.S. Central Command area of operations.

# VMFA-321: Are they an active duty or reserve squadron?

Sgt. John Lawson III  
Headquarters Marine Corps

**ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md.** – Reserve Marines keep ready in case America needs them to serve alongside their counterparts on active duty. But for the reserves of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 321, there's no distinction between staying ready and serving with active-duty Marines.

The squadron, proudly known as Hell's Angels, is a reserve unit stationed at Andrews Air Force Base. However, nearly one third of the unit's Marines are on active duty. The active-duty Marines, along with the unit's F/A-18 Hornets, stay busy.

During the unit's October drill, the seamless relationship between the reserve leathernecks and the full-timers was evident.

As the weekend began, the reserves went through a mobilization drill, making sure all administrative concerns are in order in case the unit gets called into service. Meanwhile, on a runway overlooking the hangar where Air Force One resides, the active-duty Marines made sure the Hornets were ready to take to the skies.

Once the mobilization drill was over, it was time to fly. The reserve pilots climbed into their single-seat aircraft and warmed up a chilly afternoon with the exhausts from their twin engines.

The reserve Marines take pride in working closely with their active-duty counterparts because they know the exposure to so much experience keeps them sharp. The active-duty Marines enjoy keeping the planes up in the air, and they take pride in knowing they pick up the slack when the reserves are living their civilian lives.

"We have to do whatever an active-duty squadron does with a quarter of the people on a normal day," said Lance Cpl. Jason Bankus, an active-duty Marine, who is an ordnance specialist from Garfield, Wash.

Staff Sgt. Hans Meurer, who served on active duty from 1986 to 1991, has been in the reserves since 1994. After a three-year hiatus, he saw the reserves as the way to fill a void. "I just missed the Corps," said Meurer, a resident of Hanover.

Meurer said he sees the unit's active-duty Marines as a valuable resource. When his knowledge of avionics and

quality assurance has some cobwebs, he doesn't hesitate to ask the Marines who work on the fighters every day for help.

"Don't be too proud to ask junior Marines," said Meurer, a hardware design engineer in his civilian life.

Gunnery Sgt. Robert Browning echoed Meurer. The seven Marines in his shop are responsible for the pilots' safety, and Browning is the only reserve in the group. Much technical knowledge is needed to maintain ejection seats, cabin pressurization systems, oxygen systems, and the like.

"You don't do it on a regular basis, so you don't know everything," said Browning, a firefighter from Fairfax, Va. "You have to have that active-duty support."



Sgt. John R. Lawson III

**Marines from Fighter Attack Squadron 321 prepare their F/A-18 Hornets prior to flying a training mission during the unit's October drill.**

Staff Sgt. Patrick Anderson sees being an airplane mechanic as a welcome and challenging alternative to his civilian job as an automotive sales manager.

"We're responsible for the whole airplane," said Anderson, a resident of Mountaintop, Pa. "We're the last guys to say whether that plane flies or not."

"When you take an airplane completely apart and put it back together and it rolls down the runway and gets wheels in the well, you know you've done your job," he said.

And, of course, there are the pilots.

To maintain their proficiency, they must put in more time than a typical reserve. They come in about eight times a month to fly one to three hour training missions.

"Most of the guys are very experienced," said Lt. Col. Terrence Larkin, a business owner in Alexandria, Va. For his part, Larkin spent 15 years on active duty - flying Hornets for 11 of those years.

"I enjoy flying the airplane," he said. "I enjoy working with Marines. I want to serve my country. This is a good way to do it."





# I MACE Marines team up with L.A. sheriff's office to help at-risk youths

Lt. Col. Vincent Plair

I MACE, P.W.S.T

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** — A group of active and Reserve Marines, here, teamed up recently to assist the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Century Station) with an at-risk youth intervention program called Vital Intervention Directional Alternatives.

The V.I.D.A. program is fashioned similar to a boot camp style program with the goal of redirecting the participating youths' negative behavior. The participants, ages 13-17, are referred to the program from a variety of sources including courts, schools, law enforcement agencies and parents. The 16-week program has three components: Saturday Academy, counseling and parent education.

Thirty youths from South Central Los Angeles area arrived at the Talega area on Friday night and were greeted by Marines from I Marine Expeditionary Force Augmentation Command Element, Marine Training Unit 53 and Supply Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group, similar to the way



Lt. Col. Vincent Plair

**At-risk youths from Los Angeles line up to meet the drill instructors participating in the weekend program at Camp Pendleton.**

recruits are greeted the first night of recruit training.

Saturday morning was spent running the Confidence Course, followed by "chow", both in the Camp Del Mar area, and a few words of inspiration by Lt. Commander Charles Roots, I MACE chaplain. The afternoon plan included a lecture by Gunnery Sgt. Michael Slaughter, prior

service recruiter, District 12. His lecture was well received as he touched on the importance of decisions and consequences.

"I saw a lot of myself in the youth," said Slaughter, a New Mexico native. "Growing up I had to overcome a lot of peer pressure prior to becoming a Marine."

The day concluded with a tour of the base brig.

"Without the help of the Marine Corps, this Saturday session wouldn't have had the same affect on the kids," said Deputy Jose Salgado, Century Sheriff's Station V.I.D.A. coordinator. "The Marines left an impression on the kids that hopefully will remain for the next 15 weeks."

Sgt. William Hess, of Supply Bn., has been volunteering for about a year with V.I.D.A program. "This program is as rewarding for me as it is for the kids, and is an endeavor more Marines active duty or reserve should volunteer for," said Hess.

CM



Sgt. Scotty Bries

## Safety in the skies

Lt.Col. Ronald Mason, officer in charge, Marine Air Support Detachment, Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans, (right) congratulates Col. Warren Fox, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, G-3, upon conclusion of his 6,000th mishap-free flight hour. Fox completed this milestone Sept. 21 in the UC-35C aircraft. The accrual of 6,000 mishap-free flight hours is a rare accomplishment for Marine Corps/Naval Aviators.

# Reserve, active tanks bat

Sgt. Trent Kinsey

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**FORT KNOX, Ky** – “Identified tank,” echoes through the ears of the crew as the target is acquired. The tank commander yells, “Driver, stop,” and the 63-ton tank halts with the sound of a ammunition being loaded in the main barrel.

“Fire,” comes the next command, and before the gunner has time to finish saying, “on its way,” a ball of flame launches from the main barrel as the shot is sent 2,500 meters down range to its intended impact area. The gunner says, “target,” as a flare blasts into the sky simulating the target tank being destroyed.



Sgt. Trent Kinsey

**Co. B, 4th Tank Bn., 4th MarDiv, fires practice rounds to configure their sights before the actual competition.**

The crowd cheered as the Marines of 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 8<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalions made their way through a range with moving targets simulating troops, enemy tanks and other enemy armor during the seventh annual tank gunnery competition — better known as TIGERCOMP — held here Sept. 21.

An annual event, hosted by the 4th Marine Division, TIGERCOMP brings the top tank crews of the Marine Corps’ four tank battalions — both active duty and reserve — head-to-head to see which team is best at decision making, communication skills,

technical proficiency and teamwork while operating the M1A1 Abrams tank.

“This event is the only service-wide, ground combat competition of its kind within the Department of Defense,” said Brig. Gen. John J. McCarthy, commanding general, 4th Marine Division. “It’s a true total force event.”

This year the competing teams were Company C, 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Twentynine Palms, Calif., Company B, 2nd Tank Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, N.C., Company B, 4th Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Yakima, Wash. and Company A, 8th Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Fort Knox, Ky.

Each tank crew of four Marines (the tank commander, gunner, driver and loader) arrived here, Sept. 17, but only fired twice on Yano Range before the competition, giving them the chance to sight in their weapons, said Master Gunnery Sgt. Lee Moore, range safety officer for TIGERCOMP



Sgt. Trent Kinsey

**Cpl. Roberto Brito, gunner, Co. B, 2nd Tank Bn., 2nd MarDiv, watches the ground guides as they direct his crew to the first firing position.**



# attle during Tigercomp VII



Sgt. Trent Kinsey

**Preparing for the competition, Co. C, 1st Tank Bn., 1st MarDiv, moves their tank to the first firing position.**

VII and battalion operations officer, Headquarters and Service Company, 8th Tank Bn., Rochester, N.Y.

“The way the teams get ready for the competition is through the tank gunnery skills test,” he said. “They go through an extensive process just to fire on the range.”

During the competition, the crews were sent on a designated course and had to show their skills firing the main barrel (a 120mm smooth bore cannon) on enemy tanks and armor and the M2 .50 caliber machine gun and M240G coaxial weapon at enemy troops.

Other tasks during the competition included operating the tank during an NBC (nuclear, biological, chemical) attack and manning the M1A1 with only a three-man crew.

“There are approximately 62 different target scenarios,” said Moore.

The winners of TIGERCOMP get the honor of receiving the McCard cup (named after the Medal of Honor recipient and tanker, Gunnery Sgt. Robert H. McCard, Company A, 4<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division) for a year and having the bragging rights of being the best tank crew in the Marine Corps.

To win the honor, a crew must be able to hit its designated target in 50 seconds.

“A target – which could be two at a time – will be up for 50 seconds. If the tank hits the target in ten seconds, they

get 100 points,” said Moore.

This year the winning crew of the tank gunnery competition came from Company C, 1<sup>st</sup> Tank Battalion.

Along with the bragging rights and trophy, tank commander Gunnery Sgt. Kevin J. Galloway, and his gunner, Cpl. Andrew J. Dietz, loader, Lance Cpl. Joshua M. Leinbach, and driver, Lance Cpl. Christopher R. Pugh, were awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for outstanding performance of duties by being the winning tank crew of TIGERCOMP VII.

Galloway said any team could have won the competition, but what it all came down to was the confidence and mindset that each team brought with them to the range during the competition.

Even though Galloway’s crew came in first at TIGERCOMP VII, they will have to continually hone their skills to compete with their unit for the chance to return next year for TIGERCOMP VIII.

“We’ll be departing with the 15th MEU (Marine Expeditionary Unit) in a couple of months,” said Galloway, “but when we return, we’re going to prepare to compete so we can come back here next year.”

CM



Sgt. Trent Kinsey

**While moving downrange to their second position, Co. B, 2nd Tank Bn., 2nd MarDiv, engages a moving target with the 120mm main barrel.**



# Marines', sailors' fortitud

Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**YAVORIV TRAINING AREA, Ukraine**—When Reserve Marines left Battle Creek, Mich., for the Ukraine to conduct their annual training, they had two missions in mind: to clear forest land and to complete obstacle construction.

Once in country, however, the unit received a higher priority mission.

Thirty-two Marines from Bridge Company A, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, Battle Creek, Mich., participated in Exercise Cooperative Adventure Exchange '02, which took place near L'Viv, Ukraine Oct. 2-17.

This exercise was designed to provide challenging training for participants while executing a multinational peace operation.

The Marines took on the task of constructing a new watchtower for the Ukrainian International Training Range as well as refurbishing floors and walls of an elementary school house.

"The Marines performed superbly, espe-

cially since our mission was changed less than 24 hours before we were scheduled to begin," said Capt. Benjamin P. Richmond, detachment officer in charge, Bridge Co. A.

The unit was divided in two teams to complete the construction missions. The Marines have a wide variety of both civilian and military experience, which helped in placing the right Marines to the right project.

Although the weather was cold and rainy, the Marines teamed up against the elements, making the tower project a success.

"I was really proud of the junior Marines," said Sgt. Benjamin E. Chad, 24-year-old squad leader from Saginaw, Mich. "The weather was horrible, but they didn't complain. They just did their job and finished the mission."

The Marines said the biggest obstacle of working with the other countries' military was the language barrier.

The tower was a standard German engineered tower that is commonly used in the German army.

"It was a simple enough design," said Chad, "but everything in the plans was written in German."

The Marines spend a majority of their drills constructing metal bridges. The tower project afforded the engineers the opportunity to broaden their military occupational specialty skills in areas such as carpentry. The project was beneficial to the Marines because they were given tasks out of the normal spectrum of their drills weekends, said Richmond.

"As a civilian, I work indoors as a tool and die maker," said Lance Cpl. Matt J. Barrett, 22, Grand Rapids, Mich. "This gives me great experience in carpentry, which is another part of being an engi-



Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

**Lance Cpl. Jason L. Wygant, Bridge Co. A, 6th ESB, 4th FSSG, constructs a wall in the school that the unit was refurbishing.**

neer. It is something that is very different than what I do everyday."

While the tower team fought the outdoor elements, the school team worked hard inside constructing and repainting walls as well as laying laminate floors in eight rooms of the two-story building.

The school team noted that the language barrier was tough for them at times, too. They had a difficult time asking for supplies or reading instructions of material, said Lance Cpl. Jason L. Wygant, a construction worker from Ludington, Mich., but the overall result was a success.

Everyone the Marines met were very appreciative and very thankful for what they were doing, said Sgt. Kenny A. Yelle. "It feels good to help a school which was obviously in need of refurbishing," he added.

The teams agreed that this exercise was successful because they completed both tasks and were training in another areas of what they do as engineers.

"All of the Marines performed better than expected," said Richmond. "We had little time to prepare, but completed the missions on time."



Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

**Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Pashby, Bridge Co. A, 6th ESB, 4th FSSG, cuts lumber that was used for the stairs of the watch tower the unit constructed for the Ukrainian International Training Range.**

# le radiates in the Ukraine

Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**YAVORIV TRAINING AREA, Ukraine –**  
*During battle, life threatening injuries such as sucking chest wounds or gunshot wounds are an everyday occurrence. If it wasn't for the Shock Trauma Platoon, a relatively new concept in military medicine, many lives would be lost because of them.*

*Shock Trauma Platoon, 4th Medical Battalion, San Diego, Calif., packed their gear and traveled halfway across the world to take part in the well planned and scripted chaos of a simulated mass casualty drill.*

A shock trauma platoon is a small field hospital, much smaller than a battalion aid station designed to be highly mobile and kept close to the forward edge of the battlefield in order to provide rapid treatment of injured Marines.

The unit took part in Exercise Cooperative Adventure Exchange '02 at



Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

**Members of the STP, 4th Med. Bn., treat a casualty with simulated battlefield injuries during a mass casualty drill.**

the Yavoriv Training Exercise near L'Viv, Ukraine, 2-17 October.

The exercise integrated 19 countries' various aviation, medical, field artillery, headquarters units and infantry units.

During the mass casualty drill, a nearby Italian field hospital provided ambulances to transport the victims from the simulated battlefield to the STP where the Marines would unload them, check for weapons and identification, and send them to the doctors who performed a rapid assessment of injuries.

The doctors, nurses, and corpsmen of 4th Med. Bn., were faced with simulated battlefield injuries such as collapsed lungs, missing limbs, gunshot wounds, and psychotic dementia, to name a few.

In addition to the hectic scene of trauma care, the members of the unit were also faced with Ukrainian and American civilian reporters and dozens of on lookers from medical staffs participating in the exercise to get in their way.

"The drill went exceptionally well," said Cmdr. John Western, assistant officer in charge, STP, 4th



Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

**Marines attached as security for the STP, also act as litter bearers for the wounded.**



Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

**Lance Cpl. Angelina Arellano, 4th Med. Bn., conducts a security check on a victim during a simulated mass casualty drill.**

Med. Bn. "Even though the injuries were not real, it felt like a very real situation. The pressure was still there to keep the flow of life saving medicine going," he adds.

Many of the Marines attached to the STP have never seen one in action.

"This was a good exercise for me because now I know my role as a Marine in wartime situations," said Lance Cpl. Angelina Arellano, 20 year old student from Corona, Calif.

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# 3rd Force Recon prowls the Ukraine terrain

Capt. Jeff Pool

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**YAVORIV TRAINING AREA, Ukraine** – If information is power then those who gather information are extremely powerful.

One method that commanders on the battlefield use to acquire information is employing their reconnaissance teams.

During Exercise Cooperative Adventure Exchange '02, Marines from 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company, 4th Marine Division conducted a series of missions at the Yavoriv Training Area in the former Soviet republic of the Ukraine.

“We were acting as the forward eyes for NATO, gathering information so they could continue peacekeeping operations,” said Capt. Dion A. Anglin, detachment officer-in-charge, 3rd Force Recon. Co.

The Marines endured bitter cold and a constant drizzling rain, that occasionally turned to sleet, while out in the field during their two-week, annual training exercise.

“The weather was cold, but we have all been through it before. We did learn a lot about the terrain of the country. We thought we could cover much more ground than we did, but the brush was much thicker than we expected and it took much longer,” said team radio transmission operator Sgt. Will Price, a mechanical engineer from Oxford, Miss.



SSgt. David Burrows

Recon teams conduct a final check of communication gear before beginning their missions.

The recon Marines supported the exercise coalition commander's information requirements by providing constant surveillance of their assigned area, normally far behind enemy lines.

Though capable of launching attacks, a successful mission for recon Marines is to get in, get the required information and get out without the enemy even knowing that they were there.

“Visual confirmation by a recon unit is the most superior type of intelligence. Satellite, photographs, and long range radar is good, but it is no substitute for 100 percent visual contact by us,” said Sgt. Miguel Rosario, a Brooklyn, N.Y., native.

The Ukrainian training area for the exercise was unique but it was not too different from areas where these Marines have trained before.

“The Ukraine is a little flatter than other training areas we go to,” adds Rosario. “One thing we all noticed that was unusual was the lack of wildlife. We didn't see anything bigger than a field mouse.”

A memorable first for 3rd Force Marines was teaming up with the Hungarian Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Company from the 34th Reconnaissance Battalion.

The Hungarian soldiers and Marines shared reconnaissance missions during the exercise.

The two units trained side by side for several days. They exchanged ideas, tactics and techniques during their time together. The Marines were afforded the opportunity to go to the firing range and shoot the Hungarians weapons. While the Hungarians learned room clearing tactics in a military operations in urban terrain environment.

“The Hungarian soldiers were very interested in learning how we perform room clearing tactics. Their method is a little different than ours, so it was a good exchange for us too.”



Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

Capt. Dion A. Anglin, officer-in-charge, 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company, exits a German helicopter after the three-day recon mission.



# Quantico puts 'Support' back into RSU

Cpl. Damian J. McGee

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**QUANTICO, Va.** — High training standards and the ability to mobilize rapidly are the elements of Marine Forces Reserve units that make them vital to the Marine Corps' Total Force.

Reserve Support Units work as the bridge between active and reserve components in an effort to ensure that the process these units go through to plan and execute training is as painless as possible.

When a reserve unit wants to train on an active duty base they must first contact the RSU with ideas in mind as to what they'd like to accomplish. From there, the RSU takes care of every possible logistical aspect, from setting up meals and billeting, to ensuring the availability of specific ranges or training areas. Once an RSU has stepped in, a reserve unit is only tasked with getting their Marines from their site to the base.

"We're considered 'one-stop shopping'," said Capt. Thomas W. Gagnon, deputy director, Reserve Support Unit, Marine Corps Base Quantico. "Customers (reserve units) come to us and say this is what we'd like to do, and we here at the RSU make it happen."

Once a unit has arrived, the RSU simply hands over the arranged plan, enabling the reserve Marines to conduct their own training.

While all reserve units have Inspector-Instructor staffs that ensure training is conducted and handled properly, without the assistance of RSUs working as liaisons between various training sites, it would be difficult for Marines to find readily available, the necessary training areas or facilities to carry out their mission.

"Many of our units are located near Army bases or other facilities that can

be utilized," said Gunnery Sgt. Robert Bayer, operations chief, Reserve Support Unit, MCB Quantico. "However, here Marines come into an environment they know is suitable for their needs. When reserve units come here they know we all have the same attitudes towards, and knowledge about the training they need to get accomplished. With that in mind, we ensure that when units arrive they can hit the ground running."

RSU Quantico is one of the six major reserve support units around the Corps. Using their senior and experienced staff, the unit has continued to increase the amount of reserves it supports and the quality of service it can provide.

"Our process is an ongoing improvement," Bayer said. "We feel if support is your middle name you'd better be able to do it and do it well."

At the end of the last fiscal year, RSU Quantico had supported the training of nearly 8,000 service members. Coming to the close of the first quarter, the unit has already handled approximately 3,000 Marines. This increase is largely due to the immeasurable abilities the RSU has to facilitate those who request the services, in addition to the lasting impressions they leave with this same group.

"In the eight or nine months I've been here I've never had to tell anyone

'no'," Bayer said. "Because of this and our continued effort to become more efficient, units are telling other units. We're getting much of our business from word of mouth."

The level of support reserves receive will continue to increase until it is perfected, according to the RSU Quantico staff.

"Our changes are not post '9/11' changes," Bayer said. "Marines are always training for war, and the reserves are no different. Whether these Marines were activated in the past or may be in the future, we will still do everything in our power to ensure they are supported to the fullest. For us, it's business as usual."

If your reserve unit is interested



Cpl. Damian J. McGee

**Marines from H&S Co., 4th Combat Engineer Battalion, Baltimore Md., prepare to enter the Confidence Chamber, one of the many events set up by RSU Quantico.**

in conducting training aboard MCB Quantico, visit the RSU website at [www.quantico.usmc.mil/rsu/index.htm](http://www.quantico.usmc.mil/rsu/index.htm) or contact the RSU Operations Chief, at (703) 784-5566/67; DSN 278-5566.





Cpl. Jeff Hawk

NATO-led paratroopers assault an “enemy-held” airfield in France during Cooperative Key 2002.

## TEXAS RECON MARINES SNEAK AROUND THE F

Cpl. Jeff Hawk

4th Marine Division Public Affairs

**SAINT DIZIER AIR BASE, France** – Reconnaissance Marines headquartered in San Antonio blended into the French countryside as part of a two-week-long North Atlantic Treaty Organization exercise, Sept. 21 – Oct. 5.

Twenty-four Marines and two Navy corpsmen from 1st Platoon, Charlie Company, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, joined 1,600 military personnel from 10 NATO countries and 12 NATO-friendly Partnership for Peace nations during Exercise Cooperative Key 2002.

The exercise took place near Saint Dizier Air Base about 120 miles east of Paris.

Designed to promote dialogue and interoperability between participating nations, the exercise challenged the Marines’ ability to work in a multinational environment.

“These Marines learned to work with other countries and overcome the language barriers that come with working with a multinational task force,” said Huntsville, Texas-based



Cpl. Jeff Hawk

**Cpl. Aaron Rutkowski, 28, a Marine parachute rigger from San Antonio, checks the wind velocity on the drop zone prior to a jump.**

SSgt. Kyle Hood, the unit’s 32-year-old platoon sergeant.

The exercise’s fictitious scenario revolved around enemy forces infiltrating an airfield, which NATO wanted to seize to provide refugee support for civilians displaced during a civil conflict.

Event leaders tasked two Marine recon teams to get “eyes on” the airfield and provide information needed to determine the enemy’s size and capabilities prior to a NATP-led assault. A Croatia helicopter crew inserted the Marines and Navy corpsmen into a landing zone roughly 20 kilometers from the airfield. Over the next two days, the teams navigated their way through unfamiliar French countryside to their separate objectives.

“The training we’ve had is the most real-world I’ve experienced,” said Cpl. Jason Gomez, 24, a native of San Antonio. “Crossing fields and coming across towns is something we’re going to have to deal with if we’re required for battle.”

“Avoiding detection proved challenging,” echoed Cpl. Patrick



Brady, a 22-year-old recon Marine from Lawrence, Kan. “If you encountered anybody, you could be compromised on the spot. We had foreign maps. Nobody speaks the language. You could definitely get the feeling that you were not in the United States anymore.

The teams hunkered down in wooded area during the day and traveled by the night to minimize exposure. Livestock, electric fences, rifle-toting hunters and the pitch-blackness of moonless nights made traveling precarious. Enemy forces played by French air commandos patrolled the airfield using dogs to try to sniff out the Marines. Still, the Marines prevailed.

seemed to confirm NATO’s effectiveness. “I’ve been impressed with the way NATO has developed a series of standard operating procedures that allow different countries with diverse languages to interact with each other on a very standard basis,” said Capt. Nicholas Taylor, 30, platoon commander, Dallas.

“The ability to talk to each other and understand what we’re trying to do is probably the best training we were able to get,” said

## FRENCH COUNTRYSIDE



Cpl. Jeff Hawk

**Recon Marine Sgt. Jason Lewis, 27, from Denver, blends into thick brush during a movement through the French countryside.**

“We hit our objective without being caught or seen,” said 26-year-old point man Sgt. Darren Smiley, a Dallas-based recon Marine.

The exercise culminated in an airborne assault of the airfield. Marines accompanying U.S. Air Force and foreign paratroopers linked up with the undetected recon teams shortly after securing the airfield. The exercise

Capt. Marcus Bowers, 39, battalion air officer, Batesville, Ark. Bowers led a close air support training evolution, which allowed Marines to call in simulated bomb strikes from French, Turkish and U.S. fighter aircraft. “This is a very difficult environment. The Marines have to learn to speak the same language as the pilots,” said Bowers.

Marines shared and picked up new



Cpl. Jeff Hawk

**NATO-led paratroopers prepare to hit the ground during Cooperative Key 2002.**

tricks from foreign units. “People are going to master different equipment and use it differently and that will involve techniques you may have never thought of,” said 38-year-old GySgt. Joseph Christ, company first sergeant, Carrollton, Texas.

For many Marines, the exercise underscored the way future wars will be fought. “It’s going to take multinational cooperative efforts to secure peace and freedom throughout the world,” said 26-year-old Cpl. Brian Stansell, the unit’s acting platoon communications chief from Austin.

“If people can’t communicate, if they haven’t worked together before, it will be that much more difficult.”

Exercise Cooperative Key 2002 emphasized the need to take training seriously. Said Brady: “Do your job and do it right. Focus on the little things. Don’t get into the mentality that this is just training. That attitude can get you killed faster than anything.”





# MarForRes hits the field with the Cub Scouts

**Lance Cpl. Preston Bass**

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**KILN, Miss.** – Thirty-four Marines from Marine Forces Reserve Headquarters took to woods of Mississippi, Oct. 25-27, to provide support for the annual Cub Scout Encampment at Camp Salmen Boy Scout Reservation here.

For the past six years, Marines have teamed up with Cub Scout organizers and volunteers to put on an activity packed encampment for thousands of Cub Scouts.

The activities included canoeing, an archery and bb-gun range, a cardboard slip-n-slide ride, an obstacle course, a miniature slide for life, a pine cone catapulting game, a storm the castle game, as well as an air pressure rocket

launcher site for the Scouts. There was an arts and crafts site set up where the Scouts attached compasses to personalized walking sticks and a rescue-dog show put on by the Louisiana Search and Rescue Dog Team. The instructors and their dogs showed the Scouts different things they could do to help search and rescue dogs find them if they ever find themselves lost in the woods.

Although there were thousands of scouts and their families who participated in the numerous events, there was only one who got the opportunity to stand in front of a Marine Corps band and have it respond to the movements of his hands.

“I got to direct the band,” said Nathaniel P. Parr, a six-year-old Tiger Cub from Harvey, La.

Parr, Pack 394, came out with his father and was chosen out of the audience by the band director to take charge and direct the Marine Forces Reserve Band for a couple of songs.

The band director’s motivated interaction with the crowd at the arena show, put on as the last major event for the encampment, reinforced the overall appeal for the Marines there.

“It was raining when we came in and it was just great the way the Marines were



Lance Cpl. Preston L. Bass

**Six-year-old, Nathaniel P. Parr, tries his hand at conducting the Marine Forces Reserve Band.**



Lance Cpl. Preston L. Bass

**Pfc. David E. Cornett, administrative clerk, G1, holds on to 8-year-old Jesse Melerine, helping him pull the tension tight at the pine cone sling shot activity before sending his pine cone into the lake.**



Lance Cpl. Preston L. Bass

**Sgt. Jesse R. Chamberlin, helpdesk non commissioned officer-in-charge, G6, shows Aston J. Treadaway, a 5-year-old at the encampment how to place an arrow on a bowstring in order to hit his target.**

there and helped us with our camping gear. Coming from the city, we were a little cautious about leaving our things to have them dropped off at our pack site with other peoples things, but everything made it and the Marines

were very nice,” said Edie M. Casey, mother of a Wolf Scout with pack 310, from Belle Chase, La.

“This year we had some rain that made things a little difficult for some of the Scouts and their families; the Marines really made a difference in making the situation run as smooth as possible. This has been the seventh year that the Marines have participated in the encampment and they continue to do an exceptional job of supporting the event and being a major highlight of the weekend,” said Keith Christopher, director of support services for the Southeast Louisiana Council, Boy Scouts of America. Although it rained Friday and Sunday, Mother Nature allowed just enough of a break in the downpour Saturday for the Scouts to enjoy a day of planned events.

The Scouts were not the only ones who enjoyed themselves. Some of the Marines found themselves having a good time during their weekend.

“It was great working with the kids at the bb-gun range,” said Cpl.



Lance Cpl. Preston L. Bass

**Cub Scout Cody J. Facio, Pack 84, takes his best aim at a sling shot target during the encampment.**

Gowkaran Roopnarine, Passenger Travel Office clerk, G-4. “I enjoyed showing them safety techniques. I hope to be able to do it again next year.”

The Marines involved got a chance to do something Marines don’t usually do on a normal basis, working with the kids, and the local community.

“It was good to see the Marine Corps and the community get involved

together and display values for these young kids,” said Gunnery Sgt. Richard C. Spence, event commander, and supply chief, Headquarters Battalion. “The Marines gave the young kids something to look up to through their actions out there and they really worked hard. They made my job easy.”



## **Equal opportunity representatives train in New Orleans**

**Cpl. Lana D. Waters**

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs  
Office

**BELLE CHASSE, La.** — Equal opportunity representatives from across the United States came here to find out what it takes to better represent the diversity of the Corps, Nov. 18-22.

Thirty-one Marines and sailors worked their way through forty hours of training during the equal opportunity conference hosted by Marine Forces Reserve. Subjects ranged from socialization classes to the prevention of sexual harassment.

There are many facets that go into being an equal opportunity representative, said Master Sgt. Jacqueline J. Bazile, equal opportunity advisor and course instructor, 4th Force Service Support Group. To understand the various differences in the military, a

person needs to experience what some of the major ones are like.

“We start them off with socialization classes, a course designed to show how an individual’s personality represents his environment, then we give some background about the various prejudices and discriminations, then we build on that all week,” she said. “We break them up to let them discuss what went on in class and let them see other points of view.”

To more easily show the types of discriminatory acts that can occur in any command, the instructors pull the representatives from their usual environment.

“It’s a step-by-step process,” said Staff Sgt. Paul D. Martin, course instructor and equal opportunity advisor, 4th Marine Division. “We want to take them out of their element, have them relax, and make them

aware of themselves. Then we start opening up their minds to understand how racism, sexism, hate groups, discrimination, and sexual harassment affect a person and command.”

In addition, discussing general cultural differences and common misunderstandings, the instructors used actual Marine Corps case examples.

“I can’t believe these things really happen,” said Staff Sgt. Chad E. Gillihan, career retention specialist, 3rd Battalion, 24th Marines, Bridgeton, Mo., and student at the course. “Either you have a blind eye toward it, or you’re just not looking hard enough.”

The EOR courses are conducted by MarForRes on a quarterly basis. For information on future courses, contact Huggins at (504) 678-8110.





# Bulk Fuel gets down and dirty at the annual **Mud Run**



Staff Sgt. Sergio Jimenez

**Marines and civilians quickly realize it will take teamwork to navigate the giant wall during the final stretch of the Mud Run.**

**Staff Sgt. Sergio Jimenez**  
Los Angeles Public Affairs Office

**BAKERSFIELD, Calif.** — On the starting line, it was clear on the runners' faces who came to win, who came for fun, and who came to survive. Approximately 700 racers of all ages, colors, shapes and sizes braved chilly weather just outside the city limits to take part in the grueling 10K Volkslauf Mud Run Oct 26.

The Marine Corps League and the Marine Corps Reserves sponsors the annual race that benefits Toy For Tots and local charities.

"This course was designed and built by Marines, so you know it had to be challenging," said Tim Linscott, league member. "The race has grown in popularity because of its tough reputation."

For the first 3/4-mile runners had to navigate through various ditches and berms, filled with water and mud. The runners then had to scale a three-walled obstacle and numerous other obstacles designed to slow down speedy runners, according to the race Website, [www.Volkslauf.com](http://www.Volkslauf.com). Runners were further chal-

lenged by a dozen obstacles involving water, mud pits, rope swings and mud-filled tunnels before reaching the home stretch.

"By the time we reached this point, I didn't know if I could go any further," said Pfc. Alejandro Ramos, bulk fuel specialist, 4th Force Service Support Group. "If it wasn't for the motivation I got from my team, I wouldn't have been able to make it."

Ramos, along with Sgt. Ernie Gutierrez, LCpl. Roland Fernandez, LCpl. Daniel V. Rosas and Pfc. Rigoberto Garcia-Leon were there to

keep Bulk Fuel's winning tradition alive. According to Gutierrez, Bulk Fuel has won first place in the military division for three years in a row. Teamwork has been the secret to bulk Fuel's success, said Ramos.

"When the race got tough, I saw a lot of teams leaving their team members behind," said Ramos. "I think we won first place because they didn't leave me behind."

According to Linscott, the final and toughest leg of the course was a gauntlet of 15 obstacles that meandered through a crowd of more than 4,000 cheering spectators. The racers had to climb a giant ladder, maneuver through several low crawls, rope swings, walls, and other barriers to reach the final obstacle known as "Happy Valley," a long, deep trench with an area deep enough to swim.

"By the time we got to where we could see Happy Valley and the finish line, we were totally exhausted," said Sgt. Anthony Bolanos, a recruiter from Recruiting Substation Bakersfield. The only thing that was keeping his team going was pride, he said.

The recruiter team of Bolanos, Sgt. Alfredo Arano, Sgt. Bradford Hudson, and Cpl. Anthony Ramos took third place with a time of 1 hour, 34 minutes, 34 seconds.

Future Marines Miguel Figueroa, a 2002 graduate of East Bakersfield High, and Carlos Martinez, a 2002 graduate of North High School, came to race alongside their recruiters. They used the opportunity as a challenging workout before going to recruit training in November.

Martinez also wanted to get a small taste of what he will see at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego. Both agreed they



Staff Sgt. Sergio Jimenez

**Marine Corps JROTC Cadets and brothers, Tommy N. and Carlos Escobedo, from North High School, Bakersfield, Calif., struggle through one of many low-crawl obstacles during the 10-kilometer run.**



got what they expected and more.

Linscott said he expects more people will come out to get a small taste of the Marine Corps next year. “We would love to host them and put them through the rigors of the course,” he said laughing.

His goal is to have more Marines participate. “Right now most Marines are familiar with the mud run on Camp Pendleton,” said Linscott. “Camp Pendleton’s a nice course, but it isn’t anything like this.”

According to Gutierrez, Bulk Fuel is already looking forward to next year’s race. “We are not going to let anyone come in here and beat us.”



Staff Sgt. Sergio Jimenez

**Marine recruiter Sgt. Anthony Bolanos catches his breath in “Happy Valley”, just short of the finish line.**

## 3/25 conducts MOUT training in Quantico

**Staff Sgt. Rick Langille**

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs

For most people, weekends are for rest and relaxation, but for Marines in the Reserve they can be the most demanding parts of their lives. Third Battalion, 25th Marines traveled to Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., to train at the new Military Operation in Urban Terrain facility for their October drill. The battalion conducted MOUT, helicopter and mechanized training in preparation for a 2003 Combined Arms Exercise.

Headquartered in Brook Park, Ohio, 3/25 has companies in Buffalo, N.Y., Moundsville, W.Va., Akron, Ohio and Columbus, Ohio.

Conducting battalion level training is always a challenge and even more so due to the geographic separation of the companies. Lt.Col. Tony Osterman, battalion commander, is determined to train as a battalion at least once per quarter. This requires a remarkable effort on the part of the command and the Marines themselves. Osterman chose Quantico over closer training sites due to the high level of support given to reserve units.

“The Quantico Marines have bent over backwards to aid us,” said Osterman.

The battalion was supported by amphibious assault vehicles from The Basic School (TBS) Support Battalion and CH-46 helicopters from HMM-774, a reserve squadron based in Norfolk, Va. Supporting 3/25 was as much a benefit for the AAV crewman and was useful in training his platoon outside of the TBS scenarios, said Staff Sgt. Paul Emiro, TBS Support Bn.

The Marines assembled at their respective drill sites on Friday evening, drew their weapons and supplies and boarded buses for the long drive to Quantico—in some cases as long as nine hours. Time on the bus was spent conducting training on the Code of Conduct and Sexual Harassment, listening to the Commandant’s annual birthday message and getting a review of the weekend

training plan. Upon arrival at Quantico, the battalion assembled for a 0600 formation that featured promotions and a company change of command; then it was straight to training.

At the brand new, state-of-the-art MOUT facility, Headquarters and Service Co. along with the battalion’s STA Platoon organized a defense. Companies L and K were organized into two mobile assault forces that would link up and conduct an assault in the face of that defense. Company L executed a helicopter insertion and while Co. K was AAV-mounted. The two companies moved in for an evening assault on the cinder block complex of buildings.

After a night of little sleep, hours of movement and hard fighting, the Marines still showed tremendous spirit. Pfc. Nate Warmath, Communications Plt., looked every bit the warrior – tired and dirty – but didn’t want a break. “This the stuff is awesome. This is what we came into the Marines for,” said Warmath.

Osterman wanted this weekend’s priority to be combat training, but he also knows that by challenging his Marines he satisfies their expectations.

“Retention can be hard,” said Osterman, who praised his Marines and their commitment to the demanding reserve lifestyle.

After the MOUT exercise, the Marines faced a long bus ride back to their drill sites, followed by hours of weapons cleaning, maintenance and administrative requirements. Many of them would still have hours to drive home late Sunday night before returning to work or school on Monday morning.

Cpl. Brad Klusman, an 81mm mortarman from Strongsville, Ohio, who will be commissioned as an officer soon, said as much as reserve commitments have provided challenges to his stamina and scheduling while going to school, the benefits of lessons learned and the satisfaction of a job well done have far outweighed any cost.



# 3rd ANGLICO heads to the Mountain War



Capt. Jeff Pool

**F/A-18 Hornets from VFMA-134, Miramar, Calif., conduct close air support training at the MWTC with 3rd ANGLICO.**

**Capt. Jeff Pool**

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

## **MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER, Calif. —**

From California's remote desert locations to the snow covered Sierra Nevada Mountains, a detachment of Reserve Marines are providing specialized support to their counterparts from across the "Pond".

Since late September, approximately 80 Marines from 3rd

Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (ANGLICO), Long Beach, Calif., have been instructing and supporting British Royal Marines from 40 Commando Brigade during training at a Combined Arms Exercise in 29 Palms. Another 10-man detachment provided support for training here, Oct. 26 to Nov. 17.

"This has been a great experience training with the Commandos," said Maj. Terry R. Thomas, 33, a native of Seattle and the officer in charge of 2nd Brigade Platoon-Supporting Arms Liaison Team, 3rd ANGLICO. "This directly supports our wartime mission of attaching to the U.S. Army, Allied, or Coalition forces in order to bring to bear the full capabilities of the Navy-Marine Corps combined arms punch."

Training has focused not only on traditional fire support activities such as communications, artillery, mortars and close air support, but also in such diverse areas as small unit infantry tactics, night operations, mountaineering, rappelling, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

"While the Commandos were very familiar with traditional artillery and mortar fire support procedures, for most of them,

**Capt. Jeff S. Pool**

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER, Calif., —** Since the Marine Corps disbanded the active duty ANGLICO units in April 1997, Reserve ANGLICO units have seen their operations tempo increase. The high demand for Coalition fire support and fire support training in recent years has ANGLICO Marines working hard in support of several foreign militaries.

Long deployments while working alongside active duty units from around the globe are nothing new to these Reserve Marines.

"It is not uncommon for a 3rd ANGLICO Marine to come on active duty in support of operations and exercises for three to four months at a time," said Maj. Terry R. Thomas, 33, a native of Seattle and the officer in charge of 2nd Brigade Platoon-Supporting Arms Liaison Team, 3rd ANGLICO, who works for his family's business, PNW Equipment, a Seattle-based Maritime Transportation Company. "Our training schedule is really fitted around the units we support."

Because one of ANGLICO's primary missions is attaching to foreign militaries, their training extends beyond the continental United States.

"Just in the past year Reserve Marines from 3rd ANGLICO have deployed to Thailand, Philippines, Egypt and throughout California," said Cpl. Brad W. Price, 30, a Santa Barbara native and forward observer for the team.

Future deployments will find ANGLICO Marines heading to such far off places as Australia, the Ukraine and South Korea.

Plans are underway to bring 1st and 2nd ANGLICO units back to active duty in 2003. Currently, the only active duty air and naval gunfire specialists reside within Marine Forces Reserve, 3rd based out of Long Beach, Calif. and 4th ANGLICO in



**Marines from 2nd Brigade Platoon, 3rd ANGLICO, provide close air support during a recent training exercise.**



# Warfare Training Center with British Marines

this was their first time working with U.S. aircraft in a Close Air Support role,” said Thomas. “In particular, we worked with them in employing air-strikes utilizing the 9-line briefing format for F-18 and Cobra aircraft as well as both the Landing Zone and Zippo brief formats for conducting heli-borne insert and extract operations in Marine Corps CH-53 and CH-46 helicopters.”

Unlike the typical sea-level training environments that most Marines are familiar with, the harsh and challenging mountain environment of the Mountain Warfare Training Center has both ANGLICO Marines and Commandos traversing sheer cliffs and 30-60 mph windswept peaks at elevations from 7,000 to 12,000 feet.

“This is the first time I’ve trained at MWTC with British Royal Commandos. They have excellent field skills,”

said Staff Sgt. Eric. C. Everts, Fire Control Team Leader. “Commandos have some of the best mountain leaders in the world.”

The British shared their Mountain Warfare Training Package with the ANGLICO Marines.

“Our Fire Control Teams were pushed to their limits during their mountain warfare training packages,” said Everts. “Over a one week period the Commandos moved non-stop. We ascended and descended cliffs, conducted stream crossings, humped over miles of mountainous terrain

in full pack during rain, sleet and snow.”

From the blistering desert heat to bone-chilling mountain cold, 3rd ANGLICO stands ready, willing and able to lend their expertise to whoever is in need of precision fire support.



Capt. Jeff Pool

**An AH-1W Super Cobra helicopter from HMLA-775 conducts close air support training with Reserve Marines from 3rd ANGLICO at the MWTC.**



Capt. Jeff Pool

**3rd ANGLICO hone their ability to call in for precision fire support at the MWTC.**

communications, proficiency in call for fire procedures and physical strength.”

Marines from ANGLICO routinely provide their expertise

West Palm Beach, Fla.

Third ANGLICO is structured to be easily task organized to fit the unit and mission they are supporting.

The 150-man company can deploy en masse to support a division size element or in small four- to seven-man teams designed to provide expert fire support for a reconnaissance or Special Forces team.

“Because our teams are so small it is imperative that every member of our team knows each others job,” explained Staff Sgt. Eric C. Everts, Fire Control Team Leader. “Our basic skill sets consist of radio com-

to reconnaissance or Special Forces which means they have to be trained to function with these units. Parachute, Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape (SERE), Army Pathfinder, and Helicopter Rope Suspension Training (HRST) are just a few of the additional training opportunities available—in addition to their primary Military Occupational Specialty training.

Typically Marines who want to join 3rd ANGLICO have some prior experience in fire support, such as pilots, artillerymen, communicators or infantry, but that is not required.

“If a Marine wants to join our unit we will send them to all the required schools,” said Thomas. “We normally ask for a two-year minimum commitment from a Marine because their first year is primarily dedicated to schools and training.”

Though the work is demanding and oftentimes dangerous, ANGLICO Marines find the rigors of their profession rewarding.

“The best part of being part of 3rd ANGLICO is that all the Marines are pretty cool and you get to blow a lot of stuff up,” said Sgt. Eduardo Espinosa, a Fire Control Team Leader from Sylmar, Calif.



# HMM-764 PUTS THEIR "FROGS" TO WORK

Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs  
Office

## EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. –

The CH-46 has flown through many chaotic times since its inception in the Marine Corps almost 40 years ago: Vietnam, Grenada, Somalia and the Persian Gulf to name a few.

Marines with Detachment B, Marine Aircraft Group-46, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-764, hailing from here, know all too

well about the strength and endurance of the "Frog" — they witness it daily.

"I wouldn't fly in any other helicopter in a combat situation," said Sgt. Jeffery Kraus, crew chief, HMM-764. "It has proven its effectiveness with blood."

It was just another average day for the squadron on Nov. 12, when they got the call to support infantry Marines from Twenty-Nine Palms, Calif.

"Because of our location were able to support many bases in the area," said Lt. Col. Drew Crane, executive officer and Peacetime Wartime Support Team, Det. B, MAG-46.

The "Frog" and crew of four flew over the Mojave Desert to its destination. With speeds reaching 145 nautical miles per hour, it took approximately an hour to hit its landing zone on the desert floor.

As the ramp lowered, the squad of Marines entered the steel bird, which is able to hold 17 combat loaded troops plus crew. They were off again over the endless sand to the drop off point a couple of miles away.

"That's our main mission, we put the grunts in place," Kraus said.

Throughout the afternoon the bird did exactly that - placing the infantry in different landing zones, working on the effectiveness and speed of loading



Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

**Cpl. Jared S. Watson, crew chief, HMM-764, checks out his partner CH-46 enroute to their mission of supporting two teams of Navy SEALs.**

have two .50 caliber machine guns on each side of the aircraft.

When the mission was complete, it was time to for the two General Electric T58 1700 shaft horsepower engines to fly the crew safely home.

That day was over, but on Nov. 14 the "Frogs" were off again to another location to support the Navy SEALs.

"Frogs are the workhorse of the Marine Corps," Kraus said.

Two CH-46s were tasked to meet up with SEALs just outside of San Diego. Their mission: to taxi two SEAL teams and their rubber boats a couple miles off the coast and drop them off into the sea, where they would then ride in to shore.

"We could get tasked to support anyone at anytime," said Lt. Col. Mark Bowen, aircraft commander and also incoming commanding officer Det. B, MAG-46.

The CH-46, able to hold 24,300 lbs, max weight, carried the SEALs and gear with ease. The two birds hovered over the water and descended until the aft grazed the top of the sea. The crew chief gave the word and in an instance the two teams jumped out of the birds.

Another day and mission complete for HMM-764. Always on guard, they remain ready, willing and able – because the next mission could be the "real deal," Kraus said.



Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

**A Navy SEAL jumps off the aft end of a CH-46 from HMM-764, into the sea where the rest of his team waits in their rubber boat Nov. 14.**

CM



# Active/Reserve team keeps Det. B MAG-46 Flying Strong

Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif.** – Throughout the Marine Corps there are many unsung heroes, the ones who work behind the scenes, the Leathernecks who ensure the welfare and success of their comrades in the spotlight.

For maintenance Marines in Detachment B, Marine Aircraft Group-46 it's their job to keep the more than 20 CH-46 and CH-53E helicopters flying high to complete their numerous missions, but also to ensure the safety of every hard charger in the aircraft.

"We are the little wizards behind the great and all powerful Oz," said Maj. Rick Ostermeyer, maintenance officer, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-769.

It is a continuous process for these wizards, working 12 to 16-hour days, to perfect the machines that hover thousands of feet above land dwellers.

"Yeah, we work long and hard hours, but I have no concept of time. The motivation of the hard charging Marines makes the day well worth it," said Cpl. Gabriel Reyna, airframes mechanic, Marine Helicopter Medium Squadron-764.

Reyna and the other Marines in airframes handle all the bodywork and hydraulic systems of the birds. They fix anything from the automatic ramp to patching fiberglass on an engine cover.

Airframes is just one of the legs in the chair that supports a squadron. Avionics handles the miles

and miles of electrical wiring spiraling throughout the bird's controls and gauges - anything that needs an electrical current. It could only take one wire, out of the lot of them, that disrupts a vital control system, said Lance Cpl. Robert C. Smith Jr., avionics mechanic, HMM-764.

These birds wouldn't be flying anywhere without the Leatherneck's weapons of trade. In some ways the mechanic's tools are more valuable than their rifles.

"We must have total accountability of every tool, if one is lost or broken, we shut down the entire squadron - nobody will fly until all pieces are found," said Gunnery Sgt. Brad Perry, tool room chief, HMM-769.

Each Marine must sign out for tools. Every toolbox has



Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

**Lance Cpl. Charles Blackford, avionics mechanic, Det. B, HMM-769, MAG-46, shaves the edges off a window to make it fit properly in a CH-53E.**

exact fittings where the tool belongs. No Marine can leave a toolbox unattended or unlocked if not in use, Perry said.

"We even keep track of the rags," Perry said. "Accountability is everything."

If a tool is misplaced after being used, there's a possibility of it being lodged in the aircraft's engine - it could jeopardize the mission — more importantly the lives of the crewmembers, Perry said.

There is no specific section in maintenance more valuable than the other, all of them work together to accomplish the same mission - keeping healthy birds, said Ostermeyer.

"At the end of a long day, when they see a helo come back safely from a mission, the fruits of their labor are realized," Ostermeyer said.



Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

**Cpl. Joe D. Groves II, airframes mechanic, HMM-769, seals a CH-53 engine cover with fiberglass.**

CM

# A Hero remembered

Cpl. Lana D. Waters

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**WINFIELD, Ala.**—A breeze blew the crisp, freshly fallen leaves about the feet of friends and family members as they gathered together to honor their fallen hero—a hero not only because he died for his country, but also because he had dedicated his life to ensure his family and friends could continue to enjoy the freedoms of being an American.

Johnny Micheal Spann Memorial Park was dedicated here in his hometown, Nov. 19. The former Marine captain, turned CIA operative, was killed in Afghanistan one year ago, the first American war casualty of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Larry S. Taylor, Deputy Commander, Marine Forces Reserve, spoke about the war on terrorism and reminded everyone that the enemy doesn't hate Americans for what they do, but for who they are.

"Mike Spann never forgot who he was. He never changed," said Taylor. "Even though he was no longer on active duty in the Marine Corps, he still signed off on his computer 'Semper Fi,' short for 'Semper Fidelis'—always faithful."

Taylor also quoted the words of Spann's widow Shannon who said at his funeral, "My husband was not a hero because of the way he died, but rather for the way he lived."

Major Tray Ardesse, a close friend who had served with Spann, shared a few of his memories. He and Spann often discussed the world and things going on in it. He recalled Spann saying, "Somebody has to do the jobs that no one else wants to do."

"Mike's not afraid to do these jobs, and he was doing them long before we really even knew that we needed

them done," Ardesse said. "Nobody forced him to join the Marine Corps, and nobody force him to join the CIA. That's just who Mike was."

Other dignitaries, including Alabama Governor Don Siegelman, U.S. Rep. Bob Riley, U.S. Rep. Robert Aderholt, and state Sen. Curt Lee gave their condolences to Spann's family.

A hush fell over the crowd as Winfield Mayor Bill West unveiled the black granite memorial, which identified Spann as the 79<sup>th</sup> CIA agent killed in the line of duty.

Afterward, Spann's father, Johnny Spann, recollected some words his granddaughter Alison had said to her father before he left for Afghanistan.

"'Daddy I don't want you to go. I'm afraid you won't come back,' she said. Her father's response was, 'If every dad said 'I don't want to go,' who would go?'"

He also shared some words Shannon had told them about a discussion she and Mike had about him getting out of the CIA and settling down with his family. Mike simply said, "People like me do the things I do, so that people like you can continue to do the things you do."

CM



Cpl. Lana D. Waters

**Johnny and Gail Spann, parents of Johnny Micheal Spann, look on as their son's memorial is unveiled.**

## Bulk Fuel NCOs lead the way in a different type of training

Cpl. Damian J. McGee

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**QUANTICO, Va.** – Non-commissioned officers are the backbone of the Marine Corps and one group of reserve NCOs had a chance recently to prove their leadership mettle during a challenging weekend of field training.

Bulk Fuel Company B, based in

Wilmington, Del., traveled to the training grounds of The Basic School, here, Dec. 6-8. The fuel transportation and distribution specialists ran a round-robin training schedule with Marines rotating between live-fire medium machinegun drills, land navigation, the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical confidence chamber, and the Night Integrated Training

Environment (NITE) Lab.

Confidence in leadership played a big role in the unit's training. NCOs controlled every aspect—from giving periods of instruction to running the ranges and gas chamber. They not only sharpened their skills as Marines, but also as small unit leaders.

For some the two-day evolution was a refresher course, but for many





Cpl. Damian J. McGee

**Bulk Fuel Marines are instructed by retired Master Sgt. Mike Fink, lab director, on how to navigate the NITE Lab. Progress made by a team of Marines can be seen by watching monitors connected to infrared cameras.**

this was the first time since Marine Combat Training they've gone to the field to conduct basic warrior training.

"Not only are these Marines out here training, but they're learning how to work together and increasing unity within their unit," said Chief Warrant Officer-5 Timothy McMenamin, executive officer, Co. B. "We want them to be comfortable with their small unit leaders. We set up this entire evolution so that these Marines will walk away looking up to their NCOs."

The winter weather added another challenge as the area was recently hit with several inches of snow and temperatures hovered near freezing during the day and below freezing at night.

Learning to trust their gear was the first step.

"These Marines are out here in the elements," McMenamin said. "They're wearing the appropriate cold weather gear and none of them are shivering."

The next step was for the Marines to understand how the weather can effect how they operate.

"It's obvious that the elements affect the ways in which we operate," said Lance Cpl. Dustin Herner, bulk fuel specialist, Co. B. "But, by us being out here and training in this type of climate it is teaching us that we must be versatile enough to adapt to every climate, and understand how quickly things can change due to any of the elements we're encountering."

The NITE Lab was the ultimate challenge.

The facility is designed to assist Marines in teaching techniques and procedures that best develop individual and unit skills needed to effectively carry out a night mission, said retired Master Sgt. Mike Fink, lab director.

The lab, set up in a windowless warehouse,

incorporates all the different types of terrain a Marine might encounter. Desert, jungle, forest and urban environments are all simulated. Hundreds of pounds of sand and rock cover the ground in the desert section and rope bridges and scalable rock walls in the jungle area lend realism.

Navigating the difficult terrains in the full daylight would be challenging, but in total darkness Marines must rely solely on night vision goggles, which rob them of their depth perception. Negotiating these obstacles without depth perception is an extreme test of a Marine's confidence in their leaders and equipment.

"For many of these Marines it's the first time they've ever used night vision goggles," said Cpl. Christopher Martin, bulk fuel specialist, Co. B.

"This type of training motivates us and prepares us for any engagement, day or night, that we may encounter. This is definitely a rare opportunity to train with some of these tools, but it does nothing more but further our readiness and makes us more able to answer any call our unit may receive."

"This weekend has been nothing but productive," Herener said. "We've loved every minute of it and are walking away with the confidence that we are ready, willing, and able to be effective in any environment."



Cpl. Damian J. McGee

**The NITE Lab, here, gives Marines a chance to navigate in total darkness while maneuvering through various terrains. Also placed throughout the course are dummies simulating terrorists which the Marines must "kill" by using modified blanks created for inside use.**



Cpl. Brent D. Walker

A machine gunner's view of combined arms training. The new RSU Support Integration Facility will enhance a reserve unit's ability to keep Marines and equipment in the field, where they can hone their combined arms skills.

## New Support Integration Facility to enhance RSU mission

Cpl. Julie A. Paynter

Twentynine Palms, Public Affairs

**TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif.** – The construction efforts for the Reserve Support Unit's Support Integration Facility, here, began in October.

"The SIF is going to be the facility used by RSU to assist in providing full-service logistics, admin and limited operational support to Marine Reserve and active units, sister-service Reserve component and Guard units, and allied units conducting training aboard MCAGCC," said Maj. Chris Cummings, assistant officer in charge, Reserve Support Unit.

The SIF will be located on 13th Street, across from the Enhanced Equipment Allowance Pool, Building 2061.

"The addition of the SIF facilities will not change the way the RSU does business, rather it will allow us to increase the level of support given," said Cummings. "The buildings will add several valuable assets to the RSU's support repertoire."

A motor transport maintenance facility with oil changing pits and HMMWV lifts will be a part of the new additions. The SIF will also service tracked vehicles such as tanks and amphibious vehicles and provide vehicle-loading docks for supported units.

"We envision that a Reserve or other supported unit or agency could actually sign the building over from us at the beginning of their exercise and effectively base their logistics support functions out of the facility for the entire time," said Cummings. "At the very least, Reserve units conducting a weekend drill up here will have access to a facility where they can perform incidental maintenance."

The SIF also allows RSU to store supply equipment indoors, keeping about \$3 million worth of gear inside away

from the heat and other outside elements. An ad-hoc conference area may accommodate up to 150 Marines, and new offices spaces will replace RSU Marines' current working quarters.

"These new features will better enable us to deliver full-service logistics, admin, and operational support to those units that need our help," said Cummings.

"In addition to the seven full-time Marines that comprise the RSU staff, a wide variety of units and agencies will be using the new SIF facilities," said Cummings. "These include Reserve units (to include CAX 7/8), active units (including other CAXs), test agencies such as DARPA, MCOTEA and JCAS, allied forces (British Royal Marines), and just about anyone else who requests support. Additionally, the 40 Marine Reserves that drill here on base with MAGTFTC as part of the IMA Detachment will have administrative needs taken care of from this facility."

The completion date for the SIF is projected for summer of 2003.

"The RSU's mission of 'Support—anywhere, anytime' has not changed," said Cummings. "The intention with all RSU support is and will still be to take the burden of logistics and admin off of a unit as much as possible to allow them to concentrate on training."

"This is a huge step for the Total Force Marine Corps," said Col. Anthony Weddington, RSU officer-in-charge. "A testament, if you will, to the ever increasing importance of the Reserve Component. The new SIF will be yet another important piece for building a stronger Marine Corps."





# TOYS FOR TOTS

*T'were many nights before Christmas, and all through the land, Christmas shoppers were shopping carrying toys and trinkets in their hands. They made their way frantically through shopping mall halls. Some bought camouflaged action-figures and curly-haired dolls.*

Marines from 4th Supply Battalion, 4th FSSG, helped the city of Albany, Ga., kick off the holiday season by taking part in the Celebration of Lights Parade.



Sgt. Joshua Bozeman



Staff Sgt. Sergio Jimenez

GySgt. Connie M. Denver III, Peacetime/Wartime Support Team NCOIC and Cpl. Belinda Quezada, PWST support clerk, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines, wave at spectators during the Blockbuster Hollywood Christmas Spectacular in Hollywood, Calif.



Cpl. Ryan J. Skaggs

Boudreaux, mascot for the New Orleans Zephyrs baseball team, hands a toy truck to Staff Sgt. Dwayne A. Martin, supply chief, 3rd Bn., 23rd Marines, 4th Marine Division, at the Toys for Tots drive in Metairie, La.

*They accepted the gifts with some kind words and a smile, from men and women and sometimes a child. They placed the gifts in a paper-wrapped box, with a sign on the side saying, "United States Marine Corps Reserve, Toys for Tots."*

*Cpl. Ryan J. Skaggs*

*Some bought tinsel and ornaments and giant gold bows. Some were buying statues of Santa and Rudolph with a glowing red nose. But not all these gifts were for family and friends. Some were handing their gifts to uniformed gents.*

*They wore dark-blue fitted coats lined with scarlet red trim, and a collar high up the neck like a bottle filled to the brim.*

*They shimmered with buttons of anodized brass, and wore trousers of blue with black shoes that shined like glass. They had white gloves on their hands and a unique hair-do: bald, faded up, with hair on top cut into the shape of a horseshoe.*



SSgt. Sergio Jimenez

Kelsey Grammar of "Frasier," greets Herb Schlosberg, chairman emeritus of Toys for Tots during the 15th Annual Kelsey Grammar Toys for Tots Celebrity Golf Tournament which took place at the Yorba Linda Golf Club in Yorba Linda, Calif.

## U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE



# Public-private venture provides homes for the future

Staff Sgt. Cindy Fisher  
Headquarters Marine Corps

**HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS, Washington D.C.** – Public-private venture is the wave of the future for military family housing, and the Marine Corps is leading from the front in this initiative.

PPV partners the Corps with private companies in order to provide quality military family housing in a more timely manner. This military housing privatization initiative is authorized by Congressional legislation. The National Defense Authorization Act of fiscal year 1996 authorizes Department of Defense agencies to work with private developers to meet critical housing needs nationwide.

In the past, military housing-often

considered a low priority when compared to training issues-was managed and maintained by the Corps. The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James L. Jones, expressed a different approach at the Oct. 15, 2001, official opening ceremony for the Camp Pendleton, Calif., DeLuz Housing Area, site of the Marine Corps' first PPV project.

"We have migrated from a policy of readiness which was defined in very narrow terms. Does this Marine have his rifle, his pack, his helmet, his ammunition, his food?" said Gen. Jones. "We didn't really worry too much in the 60s and 70s about the family—but things are different now."

The Corps now understands the equal importance of caring for the Marine and the Marine's family, and is dedicated to improving living conditions, the general added.

## *The Situation:*

In recent years, the quality of life in military-managed housing areas has deteriorated for a variety of reasons. On many bases, housing units were built about the same time as the installation infrastructure. Several housing areas on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton have existed since the late 40s and early 50s. At MCB Quantico, Va., the average age of homes is 55 to 60 years and some structures even date back to 1918.

In 2000, 63 percent of the Corps'

*"We didn't really worry too much in the 60s and 70s about the family—but things are different now."*

*Gen. James Jones*

housing units were more than 30 years old and 53 percent were considered inadequate, according to Karen Ayers, head of Housing Management, Facilities Branch, Installations and Logistics, Headquarters Marine Corps. As homes age, they require extensive repairs or renovations. This is expensive and creates a maintenance backlog. Consequently, base housing managers struggle to maintain units at an acceptable living standard.

In a 2000 report on housing challenges, Ayers said the estimated cost to fix the problems corpswide is \$1.5 billion. In the meantime, families residing in base housing live in homes plagued by maintenance problems like leaky plumbing, peeling paint and cracked floors.

A long-time proponent for better military housing in Southern California, Ron Packard, the former representative for California's 48th District, toured some of the older housing areas of Camp Pendleton. "They were deplorable," Packard said during the DeLuz Housing Area opening ceremony. "It was unfortunate that we were asking our men and women who are serving their country to even live in







those conditions.”

In addition to the problems inherent with older homes, many installations simply don’t have enough housing units. Often, service members must find temporary housing in surrounding civilian communities while waiting for homes to become available in base housing. The average wait for military housing is 18 months at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif. MCAS Miramar is one of several military installations in the San Diego area, which is home to more than 38,000 active-duty military families.

Often, service members living in civilian communities incur living expenses greater than the basic allowance for housing provided them by the Corps.

Poor and insufficient housing can have a negative impact on the morale of a unit, Packard said. Marines concerned about their families’ living conditions have difficulty concentrating on their jobs.

“Dedication to duty is compromised when (service members) are worried about family and home. If things are alright at home, things will be alright in the field,” said Packard who served as an officer in the U.S. Navy Dental Corps in the late 50s.

The commandant also expressed

concern about the negative impact housing issues have on retention efforts. “Not only do we worry about families, we understand that a Marine who has a family will not likely stay a Marine for very long if the family is not taken care of,” Gen. Jones said. “In today’s all volunteer force, Marines will vote with their feet if we don’t meet their aspirations and those of their families.”

Correcting these housing issues has become a long-term project. However, budget constraints combined with aging housing units and a maintenance backlog make it difficult for the Corps to provide high-quality housing to Marines and their families. *The*

### ***Solution:***

In the continuing effort to correct this situation, the Corps has turned to the private sector to build and manage military housing.

The Corps is joining with private companies, usually limited liability companies, to build more and better housing for the same money. The Department of the Navy uses a condensed acquisition process that minimizes the time, effort and money interested parties must put into the process. This helps ensure the most highly qualified private company, investor or development teams with the Marine Corps.

PPVs are an “application of governmental resources in a competitive environment,” Gen. Jones said. Ventures will focus on privatizing the replacement, renovation, maintenance and operation of existing government housing. Private companies then bear the cost for building, renovating, maintaining and managing family housing communities.

“Private companies can

get construction loans based on the expected rental income from Marines’ BAH. This reduces the up-front cost of fixing housing.”

The Marine Corps will also require private companies to set aside funds for short- and long-term renovations, Ayers said. This “will ultimately ensure homes remain in good condition over the life of the projects.”

The resulting PPV-managed housing areas won’t be operated in the same manner as base housing. “The PPV program is managed like a rental property is out in town,” said Maj. Craig S. McDonald, deputy director of Family Housing, Camp Pendleton. Under PPV, service members sign leases and make monthly payments through allotments equal to the Basic Allowance for Housing for that area. Since BAH covers rent and normal utility usage, service members should have no out-of-pocket expense, Ayers said.

While private companies manage and maintain family housing areas, the Marine Corps will remain a participant in all key management decisions as a member of Limited Liability Company Boards.

As a safeguard, the Marine Corps leases the land to be used. This prevents the loss of land or units if a company defaults on a loan. The company cannot take out new debt against the project without the Corps’ consent. The Corps’ consent will also be required for expenditures over specified amounts.



Several PPV projects are already underway and more are scheduled for the future. The first PPV contract was awarded to the Hunt Corporation in November 2000 for DeLuz Housing.

The PPV family housing program at Camp Pendleton is building new housing units and renovating old ones faster than the previous military-construction process, which took a minimum of five years to complete, McDonald said.

Camp Pendleton residents began moving into the first 200 completed homes in October 2001. Once completed, this project will include 712 units.

The ribbon was cut June 26 on the joint Navy and Marine Corps project at Belle Chase Naval Air Station, New Orleans. The housing area features 512 new townhouse units. Once completed, the \$73 million project will have 935 units.

Another joint Navy and Marine Corps project opened in San Diego in August. Additional projects are planned for MCB Camp Pendleton and MCAS Miramar. Future projects are also planned for MCB Quantico; Stewart, N.Y.; MCAS Yuma, Ariz.; MCB Hawaii; MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C.; and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C.; to name a few.

"I think by 2005, about 95 percent of our family construction ... will be

PPVs. So it's already the way of the future," Gen. Jones said at the opening of one PPV project. These housing-privatization initiatives reduce the worries of military service members whose families live within base communities, he added.

When servicemembers are de-

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**"PPV is more than just building houses- it's about building communities for our Marines, Sailors and their families."**

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*Sgt. Maj. Alford McMichael*

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ployed they can rest assured that their families are living in safe, secure and well-maintained housing, said McDonald.

### ***The Benefits:***

What this means to service members is better homes and shorter waiting lists.

Through PPV projects, better homes can be constructed or renovated faster, especially in areas with critical housing needs, according to housing management officials at HQMC.

PPV housing areas will showcase well-landscaped, pedestrian friendly sites, Ayers said.

These "better homes" will include functional floor plans, usually larger than military-constructed homes. Home designs incorporate significant

storage space and one- or two-car garages. Most will also have town home architecture and layouts as well as fenced yards.

Residents already living in PPV-managed housing areas are please with their new homes. "I love it. It has so much space. God, it's beautiful and I can't complain at all," said Cpl. Blanca Hernandez, I Marine Expeditionary Force, of her home in the DeLuz Housing Area.

The homes are not the only thing to improve.

"PPV is more than just building houses- it's about building communities for our Marines, Sailors and their families," said Sgt. Maj. Alford L. McMichael, sergeant major of the Marine Corps.

PPV housing areas will offer a variety of community services and recreational facilities. Some typical features to be expected include:

- \* large multi-function community centers***
- \* community recreation and education programs, coordinated with Marine Corps Community Service***
- \* one to three day response time for routine service calls***
- \* change of occupancy maintenance in three to five days***
- \* high-speed internet provided***
- \* yards maintained by property managers***
- \* pools, basketball courts and playgrounds***

Through PPV, the Corps will continue to ensure that Marines and their families enjoy a quality of life in keeping with their mission, Ayers said.





# MarForRes Marines to benefit from new PPV housing

Lance Cpl. Preston Bass

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

**MARINE FORCES RESERVE, New Orleans** – Construction of new military family housing is scheduled to start during spring 2003, in accordance with a joint effort from the Department of Defense and private developers.

MarForRes units at Stewart Air National Guard Base, Newburgh, N.Y., and in Chicopee, Mass., are scheduled to have new housing built and old housing refurbished to help accommodate the Inspector-Instructor staffs stationed there.

Due to the deterioration of existing housing units and the lack of housing on many bases, Public-Private Venture will partner up with the Corps, provid-

ing private companies to facilitate quality military housing for Marine families.

Construction of 170 new housing units for the three MarForRes units at Stewart Air National Guard Base is scheduled to begin in spring 2003 and should take approximately 18 months to complete, costing approximately \$15 million.

Renovations of existing housing for the two Chicopee, Mass. units is proposed to begin spring 2003 at a cost of approximately \$6 million.

Marines stationed with MarForRes, here, will soon benefit from a joint Navy and Marine Corps project at Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, Belle Chasse, which broke ground June 26. The plan is to build a new

housing area with approximately 510 new units as well as renovating the existing ones. Once completed, the \$73 million project should produce more than 925 new and refurbished units.

“We have migrated from a policy of readiness which was defined in narrow terms. Does this Marine have his rifle, his pack, his helmet, his ammunition, his food?” said Gen. James L. Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps. “We didn’t really worry too much in the ‘60s and ‘70s about the family – but things are different now.”

With a new focus on the “Marine Corps family,” developments throughout the Corps are quickly emerging to keep with the trend.



## Words from the chaplain



**Cmdr. Roosevelt Brown**

Staff Chaplain, Marine Forces Reserve

**NEW ORLEANS** – Most of us have a difficult time keeping our New Year’s resolutions, but there is hope. This article contains information about how giving is a reachable resolution. Giving can significantly improve our life by providing both physical and psychological benefits of knowing that you’re doing something worthwhile. In addition, giving is a bonus because it can lead to a longer life.

A recent study on giving shows the benefits of giving when individuals make it a priority in their lives. The study found that those who reported helping someone else only once a year were between 40 percent and 60 percent less likely to die than those who reported helping no one at all during the previous 365 days. This was a five-year study of 423

older adults conducted by the University of Michigan’s Institute for Social Research in Ann Arbor.

This study is significant because it lists ways the average person can help someone else. It really doesn’t call for individuals to do anything extraordinary, like giving all of their money to a group or volunteering long hours. The authors of the study used simple things such as assisting family members and doing acts of kindness as means to assist each other. In addition, the study showed that couples who provided emotional support to their spouses by helping them to feel loved and cared for also lived longer than those who denied emotional support.

Results from the study don’t break new ground or tell us something that we don’t know already; however, the findings from the study reinforce what has been taught to us since childhood.

You have probably heard the old saying that “it’s better to give than receive” or “give until it feels good.” Plus, most religious groups and society encourage us to help others and provide emotional support.

Even though the participants in the study were older people, the positive results from the study can serve as a motivating factor to help young people make a commitment to continue cultivating the habit of giving. As you contemplate the success or failure of keeping previous New Year’s resolutions, I would like to encourage you to consider making a decision to do some kind deeds or help a family member sometime this year. Giving isn’t a guarantee for a longer life, but you’ll probably have a happier life. For more info about the study, see this web site [www.isr.umich.edu](http://www.isr.umich.edu).



